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RENAISSANCE IN POST COLONIAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT

As a post-colonial country, India despite being under the British-colonies for nearly two decades, witnessed renaissance and it's development in various field since then is highly commendable although there were certain things which were a backdrop of that era. The work provided in this monograph depicts the changes in India after the post-colonial periods in the artistic, cultural, literature, social, economic and religious fields which clearly marks the Renaissance period of India. The occurrence of the radical changes after the end of colonial rule marking the cultural, social and economical regulations and changes are the main discussion this document . A thorough study of appropriate literature and literary works and writings have also been mentioned in this document.

INTRODUCTION-

Until the beginning of Romanticism, throughout Renaissance, in the humanistic and classical traditions, the theory of 'contemporary' or modern found a large scale involvement. As time period flew by the assumption of a conflicting and different meanings rouse with the term 'contemporary'. In the 19th century Art environment witnessed many cessation and possible changes between the Realism and Renaissance periods, like the interference of the Mannerist and the access of Baroque. Likewise, India witnessed the deviation in the paintings of the Rajputs from the idealistic and natural paintings of the Mughals which assumed a more mannered and idealistic outlook was described by (Wasim Mushtaq Wani, 2013). After colonial rule or in post-colonial India, India witnessed many cultural and social reforms which

changed the thinking and outlook of the peoples from various sections and caste and it broke many reforms and that had been coming from the ancient times. The religion witnessed the upcoming of some new social groups called the Dalits and the social structure realized a social equality and national integration and the welfare of masses without concerning about their castes. The changes in the economic policies by the government strengthened India in many diverse fields even after being under colonial rule for more than 200 years. It can be clearly assumed that what proposed the further establishment and development of India was the colonial period in India. The post-colonial Renaissance period in India was more successful in terms of achievements and developments but the ethnic, ceremonious and religious clashes did not allow the masses to live in a peaceful and free state of mind. A trace was left by the British colonialism on the culture and art of the Indians. A conflict between the cultures of the two era and its influence on the other was the main problem of the post-colonial period.

Of all these the artistic values and had a significant impact of the people that was quite observable. Let us focus on it and slowly moving onto the other features.

ART IN POST COLONIAL ERA- After colonial rule ended in India it appeared as the perfect time and moment for expressing a form that would best match the importance of the situation back then and which would leave in the books of history as the observable renaissance period for India. From (**Saffronart, 2012**) The transition artists of the period, to take an eg. were preoccupied in a deep thought and planning for the simple pursuits of life which were trivial, small and the everyday happenings. Possibly, indicating to the fact that the central and the most important aim was achieved, and the time had arrived to taste the genuine feeling of being alive. The happy, contended, brief and transient moments were captured by artists like ShiavaxChavda, K.K. Hebbar, N.S. Bendre and SailozMukherjea who were keeping pace with nature and life surrounding them. The pure break is distinguished by lively colors and forms that were simple. Established in 1947, the Progressive Artists Group, in Bombay, their response to the fact that their coincidental arrival together post-colonialism simply appeared apolitical. The main concern which all the artist had during that time was that a change must be brought in the field of art that what had been practised in earlier years of colonialism. This public declaration needed an immediate action for a total halt with the past and its derided forces, for both art and culture. (**Greg Cook, 2013**) “Man” painted by M.F. Husain in 1951 opened all the viewing and presentations. A tale of the creative artists with flourished ideas and observation in the new India, which spun from the East to the West, from evil to good and from the contemporary to the old. Although the intent wasn't that influential or clear. M.F.Husain along with the leading artists of India of the post-colonial era, exerted to make an epic and extraordinary human work

which rose up to speak up for moment of history. So as to address the modern life of Indians, these artists wanted to make art that was unique to India, which particularly included figures while being urbane in the inclusion of the Western Modernism and their language.

S. Bakre, H.A. Gade, M.F. Husain, K.H. Ara, S.H. Raza, F.N. Souza, had a positive determination to form an art that uniquely defines an Indian culture but at the same time being modern and contemporary which could redefine the renaissance period of India. Although it lacked some of the mentioned things “the Nehruvian internationalism spirit” through modernism of that time, counted greatly on “Parisian” abstract “Expressionism and post-Impressionism”. Even the Sculptors had broken from the natural descriptions of the colonial art thus making experiments from unusual tools and materials and methods to improve the quality of work which would be more personal and reflective of the colonial period and reclassify the renaissance. Meera Mukherjee, Pillo Pochkhanwalla, Adi Davierwalla, Sankho Chaudhuri were the prominent sculptors of the post colonial era.

(Saffronart, 2012) The formation of Modern art was dominated by a mood that was fragmented and pluralist in the year 1990, which highlighted problems connected with the arrival and beginning of an era of quick satisfaction along with the rise of new responsibilities of 'the global Indian'. Debited by both receiving excess information along with the private response by them to the nature, the works of some of the famous artist's like G. Ravinder Reddy, Rekha Rodwittiya, Jayashree Chakravarty, Surendran Nair and Shibu Natesan reacted to recent and larger no of provocations that would have been imagined by any of the predecessors.

Modern sculpture along with the paintings, with a transition in beliefs and examples, emerged and evolved as per acceptance. The imaginations of the sculptors was the only restriction appointed to the technique and material used by them. Stones and metals being the only traditional media was put to combinations that were unusual and were also put to inventive, new treatments and techniques like the kinetic sculpture and the site-specific installation started gaining popularity which the truly marked the changing phases in Indian art and Sculpting techniques that was visibly seen and it formed the solid base of renaissance in India.

LITERATURE- During the post-colonial era of writings, A larger importance was put on the colonization process and besides persisting on modern facts about life, attempts were made to note a powerful opposition to the leaders of the colonial societies. It basically accords the writings of literature in countries of the colonized era about the peoples hardships and at the other end it was about the fighting spirit of the masses. Since it pacts with the literature that came after colonial period, writings of the post-colonial era are considered the

major highlight during the historical period .(**Prakash C.Balikai, 2014**) Writers of the Post-colonial era opened up the potential development of a modern language and an unique way of perceiving and seeing the the world. Resistance against the colonizers were the main base for writers. Emotions, human relationships contemporary reality, partition, hybridization, national and cultural heritage and identity were some of the themes that focused the issues. One of the major improvements in India's literature was the growth of writings in English-Literature in post-colonial times. With the improvised technique and themes, writings in the Indian context made its mark and entry into the English speaking countries of the world. Ranjit Guha, Kanchalliah, Gayatri Chakraborty Spivak emphasized on the secondary faults which was present in their work. Remarriage of widow and widowhood, marginalization were themes around which the colonial nationalists had their literary works on. 'Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya' was the one, who his novel Anandmath (1882) wanted to bring patriotism and national movement from the first time in the nation. Further, Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar etc. Were the ones who followed it.

A paradigm change took place in the post-colonial novels in the style and the matter of writing. Novels written by Mulk Raj Anand deals immensely with the evils that had crept into the society which included the problem faced by the industrial labour and the workers of the tea garden, about the peasants who were landless and exploitation towards the untouchables. Kiran Desai, Nayantara Sahgal, Kamala Markandaya, Shobha De, Jhumpa Lahiri, Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai were few of the women novelists during the post-colonial era had already build a place of their own in the Indian English fiction. (**Aparna Basu, 2005**) In Post-colonial India, from 1948-49 the Indian Universities Commissions with Dr. Radhakrishnan, as the head was the first education institute to be established. It focused mainly on the education of women and provided necessary opportunity for the expression of women in dissimilar areas. A sense of accomplishment was seen when women joined faculties of commerce, agriculture and engineering by the Secondary Education Commission (1952-53) although there was no separate topic focusing on the education of women.

POST-COLONIAL INDIAN CULTURE- Culture has a very important and crucial role to play in the Indian society since the very beginning. Post-colonial era of India witnessed various social changes in culture related to status of women in society, education of the masses, religion etc.

★ **RELIGION-** In terms ceremonious practices and religious beliefs, diversity in India is one of the most striking, powerful and prominent aspect of its religion. (**Upamanyu Mukherjee, 2010**) The year 1947 not only marked India's Independence from the British rule but it also marked the partition of India in two different parts, Pakistan and India, which aroused concern for various religions in India. India, Even though being a secular state, where people belonging to different religions, caste and cultures live in harmony, as compared to the population of Pakistan the Muslim population in India was more. As a result, in the social history India faced several decisive conflicts concerning religion and religious conflicts in the post-colonial era. The borders formed as a result new post-colonial nation-states improved the communication between citizens, resulted in killing of thousands, deserted peoples and formed refugees of crores of people who suddenly had to now face the burden of the typically restricted national boundaries of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh after 1971. The revolts of destructive nature were located to religion only.

★ **EDUCATION-** According to (**Angus Maddison, 4**) As an obligation from, education in the Primary level in India was never taken seriously and it was also financed hugely by the local authorities that were quite weak. As a consequence, most of the population in India had no proper access to education and just after colonialism ended in India the percentage of the illiterate was 88. There was an acceleration in progress from 1930, but one-fifth of children were able to receive primary education and schooling just after Independence. Gandhi and Nehru were fully aware of the want of larger and better education to progress economically and socially and to also protect India from the Western Imperialism and to construct a democratic society. From 1947, a considerable amount of attention has been paid to all levels of education education in India. (**Aparna Basu, 2005**) Education of the higher classes had seen a slow but steady growth after colonialism ended in India. There were 9000 colleges and institutions and over 226 universities in 1996 from 700 colleges and a mere 35 universities for education of a general profession in 1951. For boys the enrollment in schools doubled and for girls it tripled from 1951 to 1961 hence marking a changing position and rights of women.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE- There were many social changes which our Indian society had to go through during renaissance in the post colonial period. Promoting and securing the social sphere where there is an economic and political establishment of equality was the main aim

of India at that time. Caste system is the base characteristic of the social structure of India. The hierarchy remained same for the 4 major four major categories in our caste system. Rajanya the 2nd category in our caste system was the main change which occurred was renamed as Kshatriya. Post-colonial India witnesses a new group added to our system of castes, called as Dalits which became the 5th group. As a result of the provinces of the constitution and undertaking the government spread of education in all of India, the position of the Dalits roused tremendously. Justice was something which was aimed by the Dalits, which included the wants of suppressed and backward masses which was one of the major problem for this division. As said by **(Ayesha Jalal, 1996)** In the economic era of post colonial India, the rapid rise of middle-class Indians quickly altered the social and economic conditions in the rural areas and produced a new social class called as the “metropolitan bourgeoisie”. “Metropolitan bourgeoisie” deficits representation in political scenarios but has as an important position in the economy. **(Burton Stein, 2010)** Post independence, there were passing of various acts , through different regulations with the main aim to improve the situation of the women. In 1955, the Hindu Marriage Act made it legal for a Hindu girl to marry which fixed the min. legal age at 18, still being higher to the mean marriage age by 2 years.” The Hindu Marriage Act increased the marriage age to min. of two years for girls from the previous Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 that was 14 years. As a result of the effort of the Indian Nationalist, this act was passed. **(Bharati Ray, 2005)** mentioned Dravidian marriage was de-legitimized by the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 and Special Marriage Act of 1954 and at the same time approving their safe keeping which gave equal property rights to the women. In spite of laws being made for the legal and proper age of women’s marriage and a result of social changes that have been coming from hundreds of years, Child marriages is something which still happened in India. Even though in 1978, 18 years for women and 21 years for men was regarded as the legal marriage age, child marriage was common among those where the literacy rates were almost nil and the mortality rate for children were quite high as said by **(Sita Anantha Raman, 2009)**

ECONOMY IN POST- COLONIAL INDIA- Once colonialism ended in India, it saw reforms and liberalization in the field of economy. As mentioned by **(B. R. Tomlinson, 2008)** As far as the economic. Indians who had learned liberal thinking from the Britishers helped in the income of the only source of wealth in the economic freedom movement. After colonialism ended, with the rise in population productivity in the field of agriculture came to a reduction from 1961 to 1965 which is a major characteristic of the Indian economy.

(Charles Bettelheim, 1968) The rise in the population of India is regarded as the main reason for the difficulties in the economy and for the poor living standards of the Indians. After China being the second largest country, India in 1962 with 450 million people had close to one-seventh of the total population of the world. Post Independence, as the population kept on rapidly increasing, in the field of agriculture there was a slight reduction in the productivity of food grains. As a result, development in various aspect has been taken place. Agricultural productivity was much slower as compared to in industry. As a result, As compared to agriculture, the output from industries improved as a consequence. The period from 1958 to 1964 saw the differences in the productivity of the two fields.

★ **AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY- (Harmik Deol, 2000)** 1966 was a deciding year for the country as the shortage of food was the only cause for the economic crisis the economic crises were mainly apparent in the food shortage. Reformation laws about agriculture began passing from all the states of India. The feudal exploitation in its worst form was eliminated by the 1st agrarian law and the exploitation's of the wealthy land-owners was eliminated in the other one. At places where existence of Zamindari system took place came under the consideration of the current law while the other was whereas the latter is eligible to every other region . In South of Asia, the approach of Green Revolution characterized the contemporary agriculture besides the above controls. According to **(Burton Stein, 2010)** the agrarian social structure was concerned by this strategy. India for some time was turned from an importing to a exporting food country, from the success of the Green Revolution.

The production of industries soon fell off after colonial rule ended in India. The second five years plan anticipates investing in the industries that were developing. **(Charles Bettelheim, 1968)** The chemical, engineering and the steel industries of India have taken the top positions in the world and these Industrial resources make India among the list of the wealthiest nations of the world. After post-colonial rule in India, the sugarcane and the tea industries were still the topmost producers along with the textile industries. After which the engineering and the metallurgical industries arrived.

(Dietmar Rothermund, 1993) The main exports which India made were Silvers and Textile. The foreign trade expansion and the silver stream during the 2nd half of the 19th century helped India in emerging as a home market, besides railways construction. Between the period from 1970 - 1977 a balanced growth of agricultural land

industrial output was seen in India. During this period production in industries rose by thirty-nine percent and it increased by thirty-three percent in the production of agricultural products which is seen as a well and quite moderate increase in growth.

CONCLUSION- The conclusions that can be achieved from this paper were : the noticeable developments and reforms in matters related to the new thinking and techniques proposed by the artists and the sculptors, which immensely influenced a new fashion of art and a revolution of sculpting in India. The literature works of some famous writers and novelists helped them achieve international status in the new sphere which indirectly helped the masses to communicate and study in a language which was accepted by all. The reforms and the changes undergone by the social and cultural network of India improved the position of women and helped them improve their status even though there were still some evils that were still to be taken care of. Finally the economic development of the nation of India in the post-colonial era although going through decades of loot and plundering had began to set its mark in the international stage which was a tremendous thing of its own. Hence the Renaissance of India is quite visible after the colonial rule ended which marked the beginning of a new and modern India.

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