

Environmental Awareness in the poetry of Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

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Abstract :-

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' was born on July 15, 1959, in Uttarakhand. His parents, Paramanand Pokhriyal and Vishambhari Devi, were instrumental in shaping his early life. Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, pursued an M.A. degree and began his career as a teacher. He has a PhD owners' degree along with D.Litt. He entered politics in 1991, serving multiple terms as an MLA and as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand from 2009 to 2011. In 2019, he became the Union Minister for Human Resources Development, later renamed the Union Education Ministry, serving until July 2021. He is also an accomplished author, having written around 44 books in Hindi, some of which have been translated into other languages.

Keywords :-

Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Uttarakhand, Hindi, Education, Environment, human civilization, culture.

INTRODUCTION :-

The entire existence of human life is based on the balance of the environment or we can say that the environment is the foundation of human life. The balance of man with the environment paves the way for a developed life, while the imbalance of man with the environment will be the main reason for the destruction of the entire human race and

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human resources. We should advance the pace of development by achieving unity with sensitivity towards the environment. The living and non-living things in nature are connected to the environment in some way or the other.

Environment is a universal concept, which coordinates the entire organic and inorganic world. The natural resources that man uses for his activities are in some way or the other connected to the environment and nature. Every behaviour of man is connected to the environment. Therefore, all the activities of man have an impact on the environment. In the present times, the balance of the environment has been disturbed due to the exploitation of nature and environment by man. Which is very frightening for the existence of man. The problem of environmental pollution has become a serious problem for the existence of human civilization and culture.

The two most crucial aspects of life are knowledge and action. Transforming it into action is a difficult task. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' is one such creator who does not differ in his work and writing. Doubtless he is among those who have climbed the political ladder and run on the literary trail.

This dual commitment to knowledge and action is not unique to Nishank; rather, it reflects a broader trend among individuals who navigate the complex interplay between politics and literature.

Many writers find themselves at this crossroads, where their literary endeavours serve as both a mirror of society and a vehicle for social change. For instance, just as Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank's works often resonate with his political ideologies, so too do countless authors use their narratives to challenge societal norms and inspire collective action, akin to how literature has historically captured the essence of its time and influenced public discourse. This symbiotic relationship highlights the essential role that creative expression plays in shaping our

understanding of reality and motivating us towards meaningful engagement with the world around us.

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' was born on July 15, 1959, in Uttarakhand. His parents, Paramanand Pokhriyal and Vishambhari Devi, were instrumental in shaping his early life. Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, pursued an M.A. degree and began his career as a teacher. He has a PhD owners' degree along with D.Litt. He entered politics in 1991, serving multiple terms as an MLA and as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand from 2009 to 2011. In 2019, he became the Union Minister for Human Resources Development, later renamed the Union Education Ministry, serving until July 2021. He is also an accomplished author, having written around 44 books in Hindi, some of which have been translated into other languages.

Nishank is a prominent figure in contemporary Hindi literature, exhibits a distinctive writing style that blends traditional elements with modern sensibilities. His poetry often draws on classical Hindi forms, such as 'Dohe' and 'Kavita,' which allows him to honour the rich heritage of Hindi literature while adapting it to contemporary themes. This fusion is evident in his exploration of traditional motifs like love, nature, and spirituality, which he integrates with a modern perspective, creating a dialogue between past and present.

Nishank's poetry is a heartfelt tribute to India's beauty, culture, and traditions. His poems often celebrate the stunning landscapes of India, from the mountains of Uttarakhand to the peaceful riverbanks and colourful festivals. Through his writing, he helps readers appreciate the diverse and rich scenery of his homeland. Nishank's poetry also explores deep emotions and spiritual ideas. He writes about love, loss, and life's challenges with a gentle touch, showing a deep understanding of human feelings. His poems touch on the complexities of our inner lives and offer thoughtful reflections on what it means to be human.

One of the special things about Nishank's poetry is how he makes his writing easy to understand. Even though his themes are profound, he uses simple and clear language. This makes his poems accessible to people from all walks of life, allowing everyone to connect with his words and find personal meaning in them. Nature is a big part of Nishank's poetry. He often uses images from the natural world, especially the landscapes of Uttarakhand and other parts of India. This connection to nature adds beauty to his poems and helps readers feel more connected to the places he describes.

Many of Nishank's poems are also uplifting and motivating. He often encourages readers to stay strong and keep going even when facing difficulties. His work carries messages of hope and perseverance, inspiring people to overcome challenges and strive for their best.

In the poetry collection 'Srijan Ke Beej' (सजन के बीजू), Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has expressed the various colours of his poetic practice. This collection of poems has become a symbol of Nishank's lofty thoughts. Readers get introduced to the colours of poetry filled with patriotism, social welfare, description of others' suffering and love for the environment. While reviewing this poetry collection, Dr. Muniram Saklani writes that "Srijan Ke Beej is not a poem, but a movement, which has a way to connect with society, nature and earth. These poems fly on the wings of imagination in many emotional waves and land on the ground of reality." In this poetry collection, Nishank has expressed sensitivity towards environmental elements. He presented his thoughts in the context of important topics like uniform approach towards the environment, collection of environmental wealth, existence of the environment and loving behaviour with the environment in the context of animals and birds.

In the poem 'Survekshan Laksar' (सर्वेक्षण लक्सर) of the present collection, the poet has poetically expressed a survey of Laksar, a district of Uttarakhand state. After the survey, he has expressed concern about the environmental condition in Laksar. The Kedarnath tragedy is a great

example of nature's horror. The number of tourists in Kedarnath, the increase in garbage by those tourists, resulting in climate change.

Describing the horror of nature, Nishank writes that:

कैसी विवशता
है ये कि अपने
बसेरो को
छोटे छोटे जानवरों
के बच्चों को
अपने ही सामने
देख रहे हो डूबते हुए
माँ, बहन, बच्चे,
बूढ़े और मेरे प्यारे
पश-पक्षी किस तरह इस
प्रकृति कि विभीषिका से बच पाते ।

All physical power is nothing in front of the power of the environment. Hence, man must recognize the power of the environment and avoid making the environment unbalanced.

In the poem 'Tumhi Ko Karna Hai' (तम्हीं को करना है), Nishank has accepted nature as the almighty element and has presented the point of proper use of environmental wealth. Environment is a never-ending storehouse of God-given natural wealth. It needs to be properly managed with discipline. In the present times, the form of elements like air, water, soil etc. has changed into commercial elements. Man does not have a monopoly on all these elements of the environment. In this poem, the poet has talked about the environment created by God, which has created everything for the existence of our life and has handed it over to us; then we should save the environment and protect it.

भगवान् ने बनाया है
 सब कुछ तुम्हारे लिए
 हर चीज़ दी है
 तुम्हे खुलकर तुम्हारे लिए
 पूरी प्रकृति तुम्हारे सामने है
 और तुम उसके पास हो

Many environmentalists like Sunderlal Bahuguna, Medha Patkar, Amritadevi Bishnoi and Tulsi Gowda have spent their entire wealth to save the world by protecting the environment. They have always been working in this context to create awareness among humans for environmental protection. In the poem 'Sansaar Yatra' (संसार यात्रां), Nishank has tried to establish the conflict between the environment-loving and anti-environmental mentality in harmony like this:

हर चीज़ का अपना महत्व है
 चाहे वो आकार या हो निराकार
 कुदरत द्वारा सृजित नदी,
 पहाड़ और झरने बहते हैं,
 जिव-जंतु, पशु-पक्षी सहित
 सभी अच्छे-बुरे लोग रहते हैं।

Nishank expresses in his poem 'Apni Zameen' (अपनी जमीन), that humans should not destroy the environment but become a link to connect the environment. Instead of being the master of this earth-nature, humans should ensure their respective places for all natural elements. Understanding this, humans should always work towards the environment protection. The lines from the poem are like this:

इस बड़ी सी दुनिया में

तुम्हारा भी एक स्थान है,
तुम्हे तो कड़ी बनना है
जमीन और आसमान की,
भौतिकवादी सुख नहीं बल्कि
तुम्हारी कमाई तो सम्मान की।

God has created edible things in the food cycle of humans. Away from that, just to enjoy, they kill creatures like snake, monkey, pig, cow, buffalo, scorpion, hippopotamus and enjoy the food. How cruel is the destiny of humans towards the environment? The expression of these feelings is found in the poetic lines presented by Nishank:

बेजुबान ही सही
पर मेरे दोस्त,
ये भावो से भरा होता है।

Destruction of wildlife wealth has emerged as a major environmental problem. Hunting for entertainment, ruthless killing of wildlife for valuables etc. are the practices being carried out by humans. All these activities should be immediately stop as to save our environmental assets.

In conclusion, Nishank's poetry is a powerful reminder of how closely connected we are to the environment. Through his beautiful and thoughtful verses, he celebrates the wonders of nature and encourages us to care for all living things. He highlights the importance of taking care of our planet, including our air, soil, and water, showing how crucial it is to protect these resources for future generations. His poems not only add to the beauty of literature but also inspire us to take responsibility for looking after and preserving our world.