

MOTTO IN WRITING SUBALTERN STUDIES - A CRITICAL ELUCIDATION

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Abstract: For the hundreds of years people are under subjugation. The main reason for this is the lack of proper awareness and education. The rich is becoming more and more rich and the poor is becoming more and more poor. In this critical juncture there arose a kind of study for the marginalised people ie, Sub-altern studies. People who are fighting for their space, people who are searching for their room, people who are thriving for their identity are all brought under one roof. The sub altern approach focusses mainly on broken people and this concept becomes the nucleus of the study. The term Sub-altern has the base from Latin language, sub means below and altern means all others. Apart from involving the ideological areas, the plight of the poor people, farmers, peasants, workers and crushed women in the society are covered in the subaltern writings. The key concept of the subaltern works is to appreciate the consciousness and the enlightenment of the apartheid people. In the early 1980's there started a school in India called Subaltern school of studies which gained popularity later in Latin American Studies, African Studies and other areas. The process of production is the foundation of development and change, economic transactions determine the direction of growth in the society. The sources of subaltern writings are not available abundantly because these parched groups cannot thoroughly express their ideas and opinions like other privileged classes in the society. The available sources for subaltern studies are Government documents, Census reports, Reports from Revenue department, Judicial documents, documents from Police departments, Folk tales, Folk songs and Interviews etc. This mode of writing subaltern studies paved the path to new goals by crossing the traditional writing. The concept of writing the sub altern studies is similar to writing as *History from Below* in England.

Keywords: Subjugation, Parched, Plight, Juncture, Apartheid Etc.

Introduction: The essence in the history is the fight of the people which is recorded and the realization of the facts for the future generations to study. The subaltern studies revolve in and around the people and their life which constitute the jist of the history. The mode of depicting history also called as *history from below* aims at developing the epitome of subaltern consciousness revealing in different forms, different places and at different times. Subaltern, meaning of 'inferior rank' is a term adopted by Antonio Gramsci an Italian Marxist. A subaltern is someone with low profile, origin and low ranking in a social, political and economic hierarchy. The word subaltern can also be defined as a person who is crushed, broken, apartheid, segregated, differentiated, demarcated in the society or a person in a low rank, low class in the society. These people are eligible for low cadre jobs or entry level jobs in a company or a business organisation. There are several synonyms for the word subaltern like broken class, lower class, under privileged class, exploited class, inferiors, minors etc. ,If we go back to history, there are mainly two kinds of people in the society-they are superiors and inferiors. The base for the rise of subaltern studies is the consciousness's and autonomy of the disregarded class in the society. First of all we should appreciate the enlightenment of the neglected class with regard to their action and thoughts. Change in the society gives pace and path to the culture. The sources for the subaltern studies are not abundant because of their ignorance and lack of proper guidance. They cannot preserve the evidences just like the previligid class people. Ranjit Guha, an Indian is the founder of subaltrn studies in India and it prevailed in the last two decades of the 20th century. There has been wide range of

criticism on subaltern studies. The sub altern studies depicts itself as radically a new form of changing history.

Scope of Subaltern Studies: As the superiors are given more importance in writing, there is need for rewriting the history again and again. The just of writing the subaltern studies is the agony of the workers ,under previlged classes, oppressed caste and income of women etc., In writing subaltern studies we need to emphasis on ideological part and also the standards of the deprived classes. These deprived classes should be given opportunity to think and act according to their opinions and feelings. The disregarded people should be given priority to express themselves and share their ideas on the common platform. Then only the writers of the subaltern studies can portray and depict the pathetic situations of the overlooked section in the society.

Growth of Subaltern Studies: Subaltern studies slowly gained popularity not only in India, but also in Latin American Studies, African Studies, Cultural studies and other areas etc., This trend of writing subaltern studies is found in Italian Marxist thinker Antonio Gramsci, who was also a leader of peasant revolt in Italy after the first world war. Exchange transactions of currency, social growth and difference will determine the living status of the people in the society. Change in the society gives pace ,momentum and path to the culture. Sources for the subaltern studies are not abundantly available because of scope and vicinity of the disregarded section of the society.

Subaltern Study in India: In the last two decades of the 20th century India witnessed a rise in study of subaltern studies which gave way to new challenges by crossing the traditional writing of history. This trend of writing subaltern study is imported from British writing called 'History from Below'.Dr Ranjit Guha is the father of Indian Subaltern writing in our country.He published collection of articles on Subaltern studies which portrays a solid discovery of new trend of thoughts. The key factor in the subaltern writing is who was dominating whom and who revolted against whom which became the central theme in the writing. There has been wide range of criticism on subaltern writings from many angles.

Conclusion: The subaltern studies depicted itself as a radically new form of history writing. Because of subaltern writing, the one sided history has become double faceted. Some sections in the society are deprived of their positions. A true history is not of superior group but it is moulded from the group of pulverized people in the society. Subaltern study is the people's history from below which is void of any limitations from the top level.

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