



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

	Department: ENGLISH	June 2021
Study Notes	Topic: Rebati	Class: VIII

Introduction

‘Rebati’ is the one of the first and major modern Oriya works of late Fakir Mohan Senapati. The story contains themes like feminism, girl’s education, love and desire, superstition, etc. Girls and their education are one of the most controversial issues of Indian history.

Setting of the story:

In the state of **ODISHA**, district of **CUTTACK**, in the middle of **HARIHARPUR** tehsil, exists a village named **PATAPUR** at the fount of which there’s a house- **Rebati’s home**.

About Rebati’s home:

- The front and the back of the house makes up roughly four acres, a ramshackle wall enclosing a shed and a wooden rice mill and it has a well in the center of the courtyard.
- The front door of the house opens into the veranda, and the back door into the backyard.
- The ample, spacious room beyond the front door is frequented by visitors, and the other people who come to pay the taxes.’

The courtyard was a special place in the house because:

- It was frequented by visitors and other people who came to pay taxes
- The family grew rows of spinach and drumsticks there
- The house had 2 cows who were also housed in the large courtyard
- In the evening, Rebati’s father would sing aloud ‘Krupasindhu bhajan’ and sometimes also the Bhagvad Gita
- Other people from the village would also gather here in the evening to listen to the bhajans.

Point of view:

The story ‘Rebati’ is written from the author’s point of view. (3rd Person POV)

He wished to depict the socio-cultural landscape of the Indian society in the pre- independence period, with regard to girl’s education.

The characters all play out their roles and live their lives rooted in their values, however they are also at the mercy of fate and forces of nature and pressures of society.

Conflict in the story:

Between grandmother and Rebati (Reasons for this arose due to differences in values about what girls should do)

- Learn cooking, prepare rice cakes
- Do rangolis outside the house
- Fear about anything foreign “Bilayat” (Foreign Land)

Characters in the story

1. Shyamabandhu Mohanty (Rebati's father)

- He was the village tax collector, on behalf of the zamindar
- Got a salary of Rs 2 per month and squeezed out a couple of paise from here and there. So his total income was not more Rs 4 per month.
- Kind-hearted man, respected by all, who would leave everyone happy.
- Never took taxes unjustly from anyone~ in fact would arrange for money from his own pocket if falling short!

2. Women in the house

- Grandmother rooted in tradition, critical about girls education
- Mother- the generation in between- open to embrace change
- Rebati- 10 years old, smart and eager to learn new things, representing the modern ideas – schooling for girls

3. Basudeb- Village teacher

- The teacher was a recently graduated student from Cuttack Normal school, whose name was Basudeb.
- His salary was Rs 4 per month from the government. Apart from this, each student paid a fee of one anna every month.
- As was the name, so was the person- the young lad had a handsome face and graceful nature.
- Well-mannered- never looked straight-ahead at anyone while walking through the village.
- Ages around 20 years, carried a pleasing countenance as if shaped from a single grain of rice!
- He had grown up, not with his parents, but with an uncle.

4. Sarpanch

- Once when the Deputy Inspector of schools passed through Patapur while on a tour of the rural areas, he was convinced by the Sarpanch and his aides to set up a school.
- The Deputy officer finally reported to the Odisha Division chief, and managed to install an Upper Primary school in the village!

Distinguishing features of Rebati's family

They were a satisfied and self-sufficient family as evident from the following lines:

1. A small quantity of milk and rice was available to everyone

“This didn't happen”, “We don't have that”- phrases like this not heard from anyone's mouth

2. Zamindar gave Shyama 3 acres of land to plough on, and from there grains neither exceeded nor fell short of what his family needs

“The world revolves, continues, goes on somehow. Somehow, you say? No, truth be told, it goes on pretty well.”

Significance and Symbolism of the story and how it ends....

The story in the book ends on the auspicious day of Panchami, when Rebati began her lessons in vowels and within two years she had accumulated a lot of language.

But the actual story doesn't end here...Rebati's parents die in an epidemic of cholera. Rebati falls in love with her teacher Basu, left alone with her grandmother, Rebati's family faces not only financial hardships, but Rebati undergoes a lot of mental torture at the hands of the grandmother who curses and complains.

Eventually, Rebati falls ill and passes away too...the only person left behind is the grandmother- a symbol of the rigid tradition!

SWOT Analysis- Is going to school enough?

STRENGTH: What are your favorite subjects? What are you good at?

WEAKNESS: In what areas/subjects do you need to work harder?

OPPORTUNITIES: In the current scenario, what new learning opportunities have opened up for you?

THREATS: What are your current distractions that may harm your progress towards your goal? What can you do about these problems?

Right to Education- Our Duty of being educated individuals

1. **Educate and Empower yourself:** Pursue your interests and build a make a career out of it
2. **How will you give back:** Always think about what can you do to improve the lives of those around you. Undertake some action in this direction.
3. **Respond to situations creatively:** Be a solution provider and focus on small steps you can take

CROSSWORD

(Some word meanings are hidden in the puzzle. Can you find them all?)

C	D	O	A	E	F	B	A	V	Q
O	B	A	W	L	I	N	G	J	C
U	V	W	T	K	U	B	M	X	L
N	O	G	T	C	P	Q	C	X	S
T	U	I	Z	A	B	V	N	T	P
E	F	E	R	H	T	Y	P	O	U
N	T	E	H	S	I	L	T	P	R
A	B	L	K	M	F	O	U	N	T
N	O	M	N	A	F	H	A	Y	S
C	D	I	V	R	P	L	R	W	U
E	F	D	P	T	V	E	X	E	D
P	R	O	C	U	R	I	N	G	E
A	C	C	U	M	U	L	A	T	E
D	E	E	Y	I	M	P	A	E	T

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