

Synopsis of the Thesis entitled  
**SOCIAL CONCERN IN THE SELECT PLAYS OF  
DR. D.VIZAI BHASKAR-A STUDY**

*by*

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Indian drama, or for that matter any drama of the world, is always enchanting. And when the performance is imbued with a cultural theme, it is simply exhilarating. That is what the Indian English drama is all about. It is the theatre of entertainment as well as of edification. There are quite a few world class dramatists rendering yeoman service for the popularity of this theatre in India and abroad despite problems. Their plays reflect an amazing influence of the glorious cultural past of the country mixed with its social trials and tribulations.

The study of Indian English literature during my graduation and post-graduation days reinforced my keen interest in the Indian society and its concern on human life. Indian English Drama is one of the most powerful mediums that work for society and its harmony. The fact that my Research Director, Prof. T. Narayana evinced a passion for the study of such an interesting genre proved extremely providential. This gave me the vital thrust to pursue my long-cherished dream of a literary study, with some relevance to society. After several intense and fruitful discussions, the thesis topic was arrived at – Social concerns in the select plays of Vizai Bhaskar - A Study.

The need for such a study, especially in these times of global turbulence, vast inequalities and deep conflicts, wherein the ideal of democratic nationhood is under serious threat, is attested to by several significant facts. This dissertation attempts to study such significant facts of social concern in the select plays of Vizai Bhaskar. This playwright is chosen for his treatment of untouchability, oppression of downtrodden, fair sex, religious orthodox, meaningless rituals and inhuman ill- treatment of marginalized people, pseudo-communism and denial of education to untouchables and girls. Vizai Bhaskar is primarily a social realist who revolts against man-made anti-human establishments. He evinces keen interest in the eradication of social evils and his

plays are nothing but artistic attempts to arouse the slumbering conscience of the people to actuate them to remove these evils.

I have attempted to study the plays of Vizai Bhaskar in general and the theme of social concern in particular. This is a thematic study of the plays written, translated in English by Vizai Bhaskar. The plays which are based on or alluding to the use of tales, cultural past, social influences and history that speak about the social concern are taken into consideration for the discussion. There is a belief that the social revolution or an upsurge is born out of the individual's personal, social and religious needs to gain significant position in life and in society of that particular region. But the orthodox and traditionally rigid, familial and religious code of conduct of the Indian society block this progress and inadvertently create problems in social and intellectual development. Also, it is to be perceived that the culture, history, myths, legends, folklore, literature and performing arts of a country do have some relevance to that country's social make-up and its progress in the modern days.

The Plays of Vizai Bhaskar, in some way, are analogous to the present day happenings and ways of the modern life. As per the need of the plot, the playwright has used analogous myths, legends, folklore, social and historical events of his region in particular and his country in general for the themes. In the garb of these stories come out of the people's experiences in society, the playwright has attempted to instruct the modern day audiences over their individual concerns and other burning issues of their society.

The Thesis is a socio-cultural review of these concerns and it is divided into six chapters. In the I chapter entitled "Indian Drama: An Introduction", the study traces the origin and the history of theatre in general and Indian theatre in particular since ancient times in order to explore the influence of ancient dramatic traditions on the Indian playwrights. In addition, the

themes, techniques, language and stage worthiness of Indian English plays, the problems of the Indian English Plays and elements of social concern in the play of contemporary Indian English Playwrights are discussed in detail.

The II chapter entitled, “Vizai Bhaskar as a Regional Playwright”, brings out a short biography of the playwright and his association with various theatre and drama icons of his region and their influence on him. This chapter highlights how Vizai Bhaskar has been influenced by the background of his nativity in voicing the suffering of downtrodden. Since the central theme of the thesis is studying the element of social concern in the plays of Vizai Bhaskar, an attempt is made to probe his and his contemporary playwrights urge in highlighting the social concern in their plays.

Chapter III highlights the thematic use of various forms and structure of Vizai Bhaskar plays. It discusses the portrayal of society, characterization, dialogues, translations and use of link characters in the plays of Vizai Bhaskar.

Chapter IV throws light on the urge of the playwright discussing the social concern in his plays that are translated into English. The Plays taken for discussion are *Ruthwik* (1999), *Kaalakootam* (2007), *The Return of Gandhi* (2008), *The Chair* (1999), *Riding the Tiger* (2010). The chapter also concentrates on Vizai Bhaskar’s other plays and discusses how they are mirror images of the society. The Chapter reflects social, economic, political and religious aspects of Indian society, the biased treatment of leaders between the haves and the have-nots, the double standards of pseudo communists, caste discrimination, denial of power to common man and other important issues, like industrialization, easy money, indifferent behaviour of family members and the helpless people.

Chapter V focuses on the themes of liberation and emancipation, orthodoxy, superstitions, religious conservatism and the blending of divergent aspects of human life in Indian society. This chapter mainly concerned with a clash between the two ways of life the modern and the traditional.

Chapter VI, Conclusion, briefly summarizes the arguments presented in the earlier chapters. It sums up the whole discussion by enumerating the core points of thesis as following: Vizai Bhaskar's plays are solutions for societal problems, social realities are story lines of Vizai Bhaskar and his plays are used for social equality and harmony of the society.

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