

KATHAMALA: MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

Dr. Bibhas Kanti Mandal

Stories of Kathamala were developed for the children. Our ancient education was developed through story telling method. Guru, the master, told them various story and developed their moral character. That was most important part of our heritage-education. But now a days' education is mostly knowledge bass, job oriented, where moral values are neglected. The child-centric curriculum should develop from these types of stories because children are very much interested to story rather than information. So 'Kathamala' is most relevance in present education perspective.

Aim and Object

- To develop an awareness of Indian people so that our education system was too wealthy.
- To develop an awareness of Indian people about our heritage and education.
- Provoke to be build an own education system.
- To show moral development is too much necessary in Indian perspective.
- To prove that 'Kathamala' is applicable to develop the moral character of children.
- Kathamala is also helping the children to improve their creativity.

Discussion

Globalization hijacks our own culture and education. Children are do not know about 'Thakurmarjhuli', 'Rupkathargalpo', 'Nitimala', 'Kathasaritsagar', 'Kathamala' etc. they are very much interested to 'Chatavim', 'Spiderman', 'Tom and Jerry' etc. that are imported to Europe. Our social structure and system of education are fully responsible for that. We should try to introduce them about our root. And then they rise up others. Now we are going through an important book 'Kathamala', that are most relevant for the children.

There are so many animals character in these story whose activities are as like as human being. Children are too much interested about them. Tiger, lion, crane, crow, peacock, bee, sheep, mouse, dog, cock, and of course jackal speak like a human. These are very attractive character. There is no confusion in children's mind. These stories help the children to improve their imagination. Child is obviously imaginary and creative also. There is nothing impossible in their imaginary world. 'Kathamala' is a mirror of their mind. Child loves to take notice of story. This is very pleasuring to them. So, education should introduce through story telling. This is most appropriate method. Kathamala helps us to improve children's knowledge, thinking, emotion, understanding and so on. Children are obviously creative. They are also too much imaginary. In Kathamala all are in attendance. Now we are going through the stories of Kathamala.

Narrative

There are various types of story. In the story of 'The tiger and crane' the moral is the black will take no other hue. The story is known to all. A hard bone pierced in a tiger's throat. Due to pain he ran here and there and requested every one to take out the bone. Even he announces to reward them. But every animal were afraid of him. At last a Crane agreed because he was greedy of the reward. The Crane inserted her long beak into the throat of the tiger and takes the bone out. The tiger feels well. But when the Crane claimed to reward the tiger roared, 'idiot! You inserted your beak inside my throat. Then you were finally able to take you beak out of my throat safely, isn't that enough reward?'¹ what is the moral that no mater to the children. They enjoy it. Everyone knows the story of 'The crow and the peacock-feathers'. The moral is, 'those who are not satisfied with own condition usually get insulted by the others'. This is not for the children but appropriate for the present Universe. No one satisfy to his present condition. We always try to one after another in our body to fixe feathers and it is shameless. We always try to build a reason like Tiger who kill the helpless baby-sheep. An evil-mind always create excuse so cause harms. On the other hand benevolent works are rewarded always. It is very important for our life. 'The lion and the mouse' is a great story. When a mouse was entered into a lion's nose lion woke up and attempted to kill the mouse. The mouse said, 'my lord no doubt it is my mistake. Please forgive me. You are the king of the whole animal kingdom. It will be a great discredit for you if you kill a small creature like me.'² then the lion smiled and set the mouse free. But one day lion was trapped in a net set by hunter and roar in anger. Recognized the life-sever voice the mouse came and cut the net with his sharp teeth. The lion was free shortly. It is very important to know that every life can do significant work. This is a marvelous story and too much significant also.

We always forget that play the foul with the foul treatment. 'Kathamala' taught us long long day ago. 'The dog, the cock and the jackal' is a charming and significant story. The dog and cock was very intimate friend. A sly jackal noticed the cock on a tree. Dog, the cock's friend was slept under the tree. That was not noticed by jackal. The sly jackal was making a plan to hunt the cock, said, 'hey, brother cock, don't you recognize me? Please come down...let us enjoy together.'³ The cock understood his trick and started to crow. Dog woke up. Then cock said, 'brother jackal! Please come just beneath the tree and

wait⁴. The jackal was happily to reached beneath the tree. The dog attacked him and killed at once. This is not only children's story but also others.

Jackal is a most interesting character of 'Kathamala'. It is also a clever and funny character. By her intelligence a jackal could able to save her child to an eagle. There is a proverb that jackal is most clever in forest and crow is a most clever among birds. We know that how to thirsty crow drinks water from a pitcher. But when the crow put on peacock-feathers and he thought that would look more beautiful then he was a funny character. At first the peacocks readily recognized the crow and cleared out all the feathers from the body of the crow and also peck simultaneously. The crows also hated him to return and drove out. That was not a funny at all. If you are not satisfied with your condition usually get insulted by the others and be alone. Now a day the common men are also not satisfied with their present condition. As because loneliness preceding us. Really the present circumstances or stipulation of society is very decisive. The story was written so many days ago but it is in addition significant in attendance.

Independent life is always desirable. But we forget the story of 'the tiger and the pet dog'. Dog was very healthy and powerful but the tiger was very weak for the lack of enough food. Hearing dog's life story, serving of food and others, the tiger agree to go with him. But when the tiger noticed a spot in the neck of the dog he asked the reason of spot. The dog replied, 'my master ties me up by a chain in day-time.'⁵ Then the tiger said, 'No brother! You may be happy of yourself but I need not be happy in such a way.'⁶ We, the Indian people always ready to slavery. Generally they likes to bad company. We know it, but we do not escape. 'kathamala' awakened us so many days before. In the story of 'The Farmer and the Crane' stimulated us that 'Bad Company always leads to danger'. There were a few cranes that worn to grounds damages to the crops in a paddy-field everyday. So the farmer preset a net to trap the cranes. A stork was also caught with those cranes. The stork requested the farmer to be free because he was innocent, but the farmer said, 'Yes, it is true. There is no doubt that you are innocent. But you are caught with those culprits who are causing harm to my crops. So you will also be punished them.'⁷ The moral value is really too contextual at present. Kashmir, Gujarat, Jangle Mohall, and abroad proves it.

Generally, we are not admitted benefactions. But it is not humanity. Our ancient society was not approved it. In summer, some people got very tired and took rest under the cool shadow of a banyan tree. One of them said that this was worthless. There is no flower and no fruit also. Hearing this, the banyan tree replied, 'Man is very ungrateful. They are getting benefits by means of my shadow, at the same time they are speaking ill of me in loud voice that I am useless.'⁸ Trees are too much essentials for us. The Nobel laureate Tagore was started 'Banamahotsava' in 1928. That is very useful to us. A forestation programs are laid down by entire world today. Every trees have a value. We know that well known moral, 'Slow but steady wins the race'. We repeatedly say it. But that age is so speedy that moral is not useful at present. So that moral can change to 'Speedy and steady wins the race'. We are basically fool. So, usually we leave friend by trusting enemy like sheep in *Kathamala*. Some sheep used to crop in place to place. Few strong dogs would save from harm them. The wolves were terrified of those dogs and could not do violence to the flock of sheep in being there of dogs. One day, wolves discussed among them that they could do nothing to the sheep if those dogs were there, somehow, should be removed by tricks. The wolves sent a welcoming plan to the sheep. They said that they are involved in disagreement with each other only for dogs are there. If the dogs are driven out there will be complete harmony. The foolish sheep followed of the wolves and had determined out the dogs. The wolves utilized that opportunity and overflowing their stomachs with killed the sheep. The moral of the story is that do not leave a friend by trusting an enemy. This is more significance to human lives.

We should not lose our confidence in any dire situation. Tagore and Vivekananda inspire us about that. This word is actually theme of life. *Kathamala* also directed us earlier. In the story, 'The Hares and the Frogs' we see that morals. The hares are nervous and short-lived nature. They are living always in fear of life. One day they decided that death is permeable to such living in fear. So, they decided to pass away. Promising for death, the hares reached by the side of a lake. They found some frogs who sat side of the lake, jumped at once in the water to found them. Seeing this hares considered themselves as to some stronger than few others. They got confidence. Self confidence and self esteem is very necessary for us. In Sanskrit there was a 'Sloka' -"utthisthata jagratoprappo barana nibodhate". So we should be confidence. We do not live without doctor or medicine. But now a day it is a big business. *Kathamala* was too much advanced. There was a story named 'The Patient and the Physician'. A Physician treated a patient during some period. But patient died in his presence. At the time of patient's burning the physician came and blamed to his diet. Hearing this, one of relatives replied, 'Doctor! What you are saying is absolutely true. But what is the value of your advice now in this time? You should have advised him when the person was alive.'⁹ This is really funny! It is unless to advise to when the proper time is over.

Outcome

Execution is tougher than the proposal. It is too much significant at present. That was also in *Kathamala*. 'The advice of a mouse' has to clear it. *Kathamala* is really a fantastic story book. Is it only for children? No, it is most appropriate to the present context of our society. If we learn from *Kathamala* our society will save.

Conclusion

The characters of *Kathamala* may be insects or other animals, but they are really living character as like men. Allegory was present there. It hits our society but we do not bother. We think that, it is a nonsense story. It is only for children. It is most suitable to the present circumstance of our society. We, all should read it again and again with our children. If we follow it, the society will be change. That is the relevant of my discussion.

Index

1. *Kathamalar Galpo*, holy child publication, Kolkata, 2015, page 5.
2. *Kathamalar Galpo*, holy child publication, Kolkata, 2015, page 13.
3. *Kathamalar Galpo*, holy child publication, Kolkata, 2015, page 15.
4. *Kathamalar Galpo*, holy child publication, Kolkata, 2015, page 15.
5. *Kathamalar Galpo*, holy child publication, Kolkata, 2015, page 50.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid, pageno-54.
8. Ibid, page-56.
9. Ibid, page-78.