



## **THE PRESENTATION OF INDIAN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICS IN THE NOVELS OF BHABANI BHATTACHARYA**

**SIDDHARTH G. AGHAM**

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada  
University, Aurangabad-431001.  
(MS) INDIA

### **ABSTRACT**

*The early English novelist in India Bhabani Bhattacharya was born in Bhagalpur on 10 November 1906. He was educated at Patna University. His later part of education was held in London and got his Ph.D. from there. When he returned to India, he joined the Diplomatic Service and he started teaching after retirement. Bhattacharya was influenced by his teacher Harold Laski. He published his works in various magazines like The Spectator. He translated Tagore's poem 'The Golden Boat' into English in 1930. Bhattacharya was influenced by Mahatma Gandhiji and Rabindranath Tagore. He was also known as a social realistic writer. His situational examples, a satire about an event in contemporary India shows us the picture of society. His novel had realism and a social purpose and a social display of what needed to be displayed to the readers. his first novel 'So Many Hungers'(1947), was published after the date of Independence. He explained the independence struggle and then post-independence chaos. The present study is a depiction of the presentation of the Indian Social, Economic, and Political Situation in the novels of Bhabani Bhattacharya.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Bhabani Bhattacharya is an important Indian English novelist among the first generation of English writers in India. He says that the writer should be a keen observer of truth in life's situations so that he may be able to deal with such situations in his writings. According to this, you will find in his novels various issues being handled and sometimes mishandled as well.

**SIDDHARTH G. AGHAM**

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**A-List of Novels by Bhabani Bhattacharya:**

So Many Hungers – 1947  
Music for Mohini – 1952  
He Who Rides a Tiger – 1952  
A Goddess Named Gold – 1960  
Shadow from Ladakh – 1966  
A Dream in Hawaii – 1978

His wide range of experience in the world about people, personality, society, and religion has enabled him to grasp the innate significance of humanity. The reader of his novel gets involved with the characters of the novel. It was power in his writing or pen to catch the nerves of the reader and stick them with the novel.

From the six novels of Bhabani Bhattacharya, the first is '*So many hungers*' (1947) was published after two months of Indian independence. This novel reflects the life problems of Indians. It deals with a hunger for food, health, habitats, needs, sex, wealth authority, and power. The novel deals with the two worse events that happened in the life of the Indian people. The first is famine and the next is an early stage of the second world war. The devil famine neither completely dead nor alive to the man. The people from the village were economically exploited not only by nature but from corrupted politics and administration too. In the village Baruni when the poor farmers were fooled by the opportunist into selling all their grain for a paltry price and then how they the people migrate to the city in the search of food. In this movement thousand of people got tragic death. Till today thousand of young people migrate to the city in the search of a job and good life because of their economic condition, attraction of urban development, and facilities. The result is massive hunger deaths. Bhabani Bhattacharya portrays the picture of poor people during the time of famine as "Weavers sold their looms to traders from big cities who scoured the countryside for bargains. Artisans sold their food. Fishermen's boats were chopped up for firewood to sell. The plague washed up in fierce tides. Bengal was dying. Jharna was dying."

Bhabani Bhattacharya's second novel '*Music of Mohini*' (1952), the theme of this novel is the rejuvenation of India it is especially about villages. The author describes the society caught I the deadly mire of superstition, tradition, custom, and blind faith. Under this situation, the author feels nervous that an Indian will be able to utilize the freedom. Will they be able to give equal treatment to people? Can the people progress in such conditions? He wrote "society, rural society was sick with taboos and inhibition of its own making, the iniquity of caste and untouchability, the situation that passed for religion the wide-flung cobweb of



superstitious faith” (Music for Mohini 67-68). This is the story of young teenage girl Mohini and her passion for a bright joyful life. Her dream for perfect happy married life is shattered and she is shocked by the behavior of her silent husband. She is ignored by her husband and her orthodox family members. She does not accept her defeat in life and she decides to bring happiness and adjust herself to the village and their tradition.

The novel, *‘He Who Rides A Tiger’*, published in 1952 is based on an ancient saying, "He who rides A tiger cannot dismount." The character from the novel Kalo is one of the best creations of Bhattacharya. Kalo is a blacksmith living in a small town Jharna with his daughter, Chandra Lekha. Bhattacharya described the appearance of his hero, "But Kalo, black, was true to his complexion, which had the color quality of ink and people said that when he sweated, you could collect the oozing fluid for your inkwell." But, Kalo performs a miracle by avenging himself on the wealthy and high caste people and becomes a legend in his lifetime.

*‘A Goddess Named Gold’* is published in (1960) it is the best novel on Indian village life and makes the most illuminating and satisfying reading experience. The novel deals with the liberation of people from the clutches of savkar or shetji. It also shows how women courageously resolve crises and prove themselves. How they fight against the money-lenders, smugglers who have cursed the society. The novel deals with the life and predicament of people in the pre-independence Indian villages. Bhattacharya provides the picture of people's lives in the countryside which is marked by poverty, exploitation, and starvation as well as the lure of landlords for the gold and property of the poor.

The novel *‘Shadow from Ladakh’*, was published in (1966). the background of this novel is the conflict between India and China and discusses what Indians need for survival. In a sense, conflict is related to the way of life for the village Gandhigram. It is about how the modern sophisticated civilization has encroached upon the simple and modest lives of the poor through the characters of the novel Bhaskar and Satyajit. *Shadow from Ladakh* highlights the concepts of basic education, voluntary poverty, truth, non-violence, fair distribution of wealth, self-purification by fasting and satyagraha”.

## CONCLUSION

All the novels and the major characters of Bhabani Bhattacharya provide ample information about the Indian tradition and the condition of the society. Bhattacharya's novels are notable for their social realism. These novels show the poverty, problems, needs, and hunger of society. The character description and presentation of Indian people are outstanding in his novels. Bhabani Bhattacharya earned fame because he tried to display society in his novels as



a mirror. He has shown society as it is what we observe as less and what we had in plenty. The novels are based on the atrocities that the British did on Indians. His novels tried to experiment with the themes and plots. As the author is representative of society Bhabani Bhattacharya is remarkable who had made a cultural translation of Indian ethos through his work. His books are considered as a social report to the reader.

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