

## ANNA BHAU SATHE : A LITERARY BIO-SKETCH

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**Abstract :** *The present paper focuses on the life of a revolutionary poet, social reformer, and folk artist born in an untouchable Mang community, deprived of their rights. The caste system of India is the biggest threat in creation of socio-economic equality. He fought for the problems of labourers and farmers. He sings and plays musical instruments, through which he sends a message about the injustice exists in the society. He has a deep insight about the problems of the poor and untouchables who were the victims of the inequality in the society. He was of the opinion that social justice will take place only after the revolution of the working class. He was the founder of the tamasha troupe known as Lal Bavta.*

**Keywords:** Untouchable, Social injustice, Folk songs, Dalits, Lok Shahir etc.

**Introduction:** India is the land of freedom fighters against the trayanny of the British Rule. Indians are very keen to get freedom from the British Rule. Some leaders from the Indian soil raised their voice against this; some of them are Gandhiji, Bhagat Singh, Lokmanya Tilak, Pandit Nehru, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose etc. In Maharashtra, Some of the leaders emerged from the social injustice exists in the society like Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Phule, Sahityratna Annabhau sathe, whose prime concern is to establish social equality. They fought to regain the rights of poor people who were deprived from their own rights.

Annabhau Sathe was born on 1 August 1920 at Wategaon, district Sangli Maharashtra in a Mang Community. The community was treated as the untouchables without the proper source of their livelihood to earn money. The people of this community used to beat drums and play the trumpet at the time of festivals and on marriage ceremonies. Anna's father used to work as gardener at Mumbai at the residence of a British man. It was the dream of his father to educate his son and strived to get his son educated. In the school Anna, being a boy from the untouchable community do not liked by the teacher, who belonged to the upper class of the society. At school, he was humiliated many a times by his teacher and this was the reason that Anna left his primary

education. At this time, he decided that he will raise his voice against this social injustice and fought for the equality in the society. He was of the opinion that: “Forge ahead! Change this world a big blow. This was what Bhimrao said. You are as strong as an elephant. Why are you then trapped in the morass of slavery?” (Annabhau Sathe: Jag badal ghaluni ghav/ Sanguni gele Bhimrao/ Gulamgirichya ya chikhlat/ Rutun basla ka Airawat/ Ang jhaduni nigh baheri.)

Annabhau Sathe, a renowned Marathi literary writer expresses his experiences in the form of literary writings. It is the first time that a Marathi writer describes the life of poor and downtrodden people. He has written thirty novels through which he emphasizes on the social equality in the society. His literary writings include *Fakira*(1959), *Varnecha Vagh*, *Mastar*, *Agnidivya*, *Chitra*, *Vaijyanta*, *Chandan*, *Chikhlatil Kamal*, *Fulpakharu*, *Tila Lavte Mi Raktacha*, *Ratna*, *Alguj*, *Ranganga*, *Ahankar*, *Aag*, *Roopa*, *Aaghat*, *Gulam*, *Mayura*, *Moorti*, *Makdicha Maal*, *Dole Modit Radha Chale*, *Ranboka*, *Kurup*, *Pazar*, *Kevdyache Kanis*, etc... His Novel *Fakira* (1959) describes about the life of the people of Maang community who were treated as untouchables. It is his one of the world famous novel appreciated by all over the world. This novel is translated into 27 Indian and foreign languages.

Annabhau’s short stories and novels were the painful picture of the society particularly the life of the lower caste people. His short story entitled *Teen Bhakri* portrays the life of the laborers in which if they do not work in the day, they will struggle to get the food. *Saanwala* is the short story which reveals the life of a woman struggles to get her existence in the patriarchal society. In the novel *Varnechya Khoryat* the novelist depicted the life of a freedom fighter named Hindurao, the glimpses of Indian freedom struggle had been seen in the novel in the form of *Bharat Chhodo*. *Agnidivya* tells the story of the life of Prataprao Gujar, who was the commander in the administration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. In the novel *Chitra* he depicts the life of the women who were thrown in profession of prostitution. Annabhau Sathe had written 14 plays, 35 novels, more than 300 stories and around 200 lavnis. He wrote screenplays for many of Marathi movies.

Annabhau Sathe was very keen in singing the songs about the life of the poor people particularly about the people who belongs to the labourer class. He joined his uncle’s Tamasha Troupe. The main purpose of the people of this troupe was to visit villages and perform before the

villagers. Anna used to sing ‘abhangs’ of Lord Vitthal in his childhood. Once he had a chance to listen to the speech of Nanasaheb Patil, a revolutionary leader describes about the trayanny of the British Rule over India. The speech had a huge impact on his mind and started thinking about the inequality in the society. He soon realized that poverty was the biggest impediment in achieving social equality. In the troupe, he used to play every instrument and very keen on learning and experimenting different things. In 1944, Anna formed a troupe known as Lal Bavta Kalapathak. The troupe helped him a lot to carry out his revolutionary ideas to keep people aware of the British rule.

Annabhau Sathe participated in the freedom struggle movements like Samyukta Maharashtra Movement and in Goa Freedom Movement. He worked as a journalist for the weekly *Lokyuddha*. He began to write about the problems of the common man appreciated tremendously by the masses. It is this time in which he wrote plays like *Akelechi Gosht*, *Khappya Chor* and *Mazi Mumbai*. He realized that Indian society is filled with social and economic inequalities. The situation had to be transformed and the gap of the inequality needed to be discarded. Caste system is the threat to the progress of the people. There will not be any discrimination between the people on the basis of the caste. A person who belongs to lower caste should be treated as equal. Annabhau had concerns about the worries and problems of the common man and spends his life for social equality.

**Conclusion:** Annabhau Sathe is the leader of the common man who fought for the rights of the common man in his life span. It is his opinion that people needs to be judged by their work not by their caste. There will not be any discrimination among the people on the basis of the caste. There should be social and economic equality in the society. His literary writings deal with the issues related to common man, the problems of the people of lower caste, the social and economic inequality, the freedom from the British rule etc.

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