

## Rajasthani Natya Samaroh—Generates interest in Rajasthani through Theatre

Theatre lovers of Udaipur witnessed 'Rajasthani Natya Samaroh' from 25 to 27 March 2021 under the joint aegis of Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal, Udaipur, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, Jodhpur and The Performers Cultural Society, Udaipur following Covid-19 restrictions.



The inaugural play "Ajab Chori Ki Gazab Kahani" directed by Ashok Rahi was a wonderful treat for spectators.

Ashok Rahi himself is an established playwright. He has also written daily column of his satire "Baat Karamaat" for Rajasthan Patrika for years. He catches wit from small instances and imbibes them in his writing with enormous freshness. Same thing was visible in the play "Ajab Chori Ki Gazab Kahani" which he adapted from the old story "Charandas Chor" of noted folklorist Vijaydan Detha. Ashok Rahi presented this play in Folk Theatre style imbibing of chorus, local flavored folk music of Brij region,

dances and colorful costumes. Instead of using other paraphernalia he used Mime. He worked more on characterization to make each scene enthralling. Adding contemporary and popular humor his actors kept audience engrossed throughout the play. His team with high level of discipline and dedication took the

play to new heights.

Hero is a petty thief, who jokingly pledges to tell the truth to his Guru. At the same time, he makes four more vows that he will never eat in golden plate, ride an elephant in a procession, will not marry a queen and will not accept becoming the king of a country. The thief steals without lying and becomes renowned. He commits the biggest and last theft of his life from the Royal treasury. He admits his theft without any fear and at the same time unveils theft of Royal Treasurer. The Queen gets highly impressed and admires the courage of thief to the extent she offers all the Royal

facilities like food in golden plate, procession on the elephant and wants to make him a king by proposing marriage to him, but the thief, dire honest to honor the words given to the Guru, refuses. Furious queen asks him to not go out and tell anyone, but the thief also vowed to tell the truth, so he denies this too. Because of which, the queen punishes him to death. Honoring the words given to his guru, the thief finally embraces death.

Nitin Saini, as Chor stole the show. Pratibha Pareek as Queen, and other roles showed immense potential. All other actors like Apeksha Jain, Manish Kumar, Sanjay Mahawar, Rahul Kumar, Honey Mishra, Rauni Singh, Akshay Kashtiya, Jai Soni, Khalid Khan, Sahil Arora, Yashwant Singh, Rajat Sharma, Hritik Pankaj, Vinay was Lokendra Singh, and Ravikant played their roles effectively. Lyricist Kailash Manhar and composer Mukesh Verma Soni assisted by Pradeep Pareek and Yogesh Jangid on Lights contributed their talent to make play interesting.

Next evening staging of "Master Sahab" exposed the declining human values in the society. How poor people are exploited by the rich. This strong creation of Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore was adapted and directed by Dr. Laique Hussain. This musical play was staged in Mewari. Dr. Laique Hussain and his team strives to give their produc-



tion local colour. The team of actors included Shubham Ameta, Ajay Sharma, Deep Raj Singh Baghela, Ishaan Tandon, Ashok Kumar, Juzar Nathdwara, Kunal Mehta, Yogita Soni, Dipendra Singh Chundawat, Vibhash, Priyal Jani, Dharvi Dixit, Mo. Hafiz, Shivangi Tiwari, Farhana Khan, Hussain RC, Geetisha Pandey, Music pit included artistes like Ramlal Bhat, Bhavna Dhandanda, Rais Khan, Shubham Ameta, Shalu Verma, Deepraj and Ajay.

Lights were looked after by Krishna Kumar Ojha and Mushtak Khan while Rajkumar Mogiya looked after Sound. Anukampa designed costume and Shipra Chatterjee choreographed dances. Prabuddha Pandey assisted the director Dr. Laique Hussain to make this play effective.

The Festival was con-

cluded on 27 March coinciding with World Theatre Day. The play "Karam Pajokhi" was staged by Natyadharml Art Society, Jaipur directed by Kuldeep Sharma.

The word Pajokhana is a Rajasthani stands for to try and hence, Karam Pajokhi means instead of cursing ill luck one should try the karma. A young man named Buddhi somehow gets a few gold coins and loses them too in short time. Knowing this as fate, he decides to go in search of destiny, he finds Guru and with deep practice he gains some spiritual powers but comes to know the ill fate of Guru's children and becomes uneasy. Finally he determines to defeat the fate. Eventually, through his hard work and wisdom he wins over the God of fate thus brings good fortune to Guru's Children.

The team of actors like Neha Dhakad, Ankit Sharma, Madhu Dewasi, Manas Mokhal, Raman Acharya, Nidhi Jain, Abhishek Bairwa, Usman Tanwar, Deepak Sharma, Lakshmi Jaludriyan, Rahul Panwar, Pratham Mittal, Anmol Deep, Kshitij Kumar, Prabha Sharma, Sanjay. The story was powerful, but it needed editing and brushing.

Unwanted prolonged pauses caused dragging. The Director should work more on such issues to make play crispier. The organisers deserve appreciation that they are doing good job to preserve and promote Rajasthani. Many new words were added the vocabulary of audience. Honoring regional languages would certainly go a long way to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan.

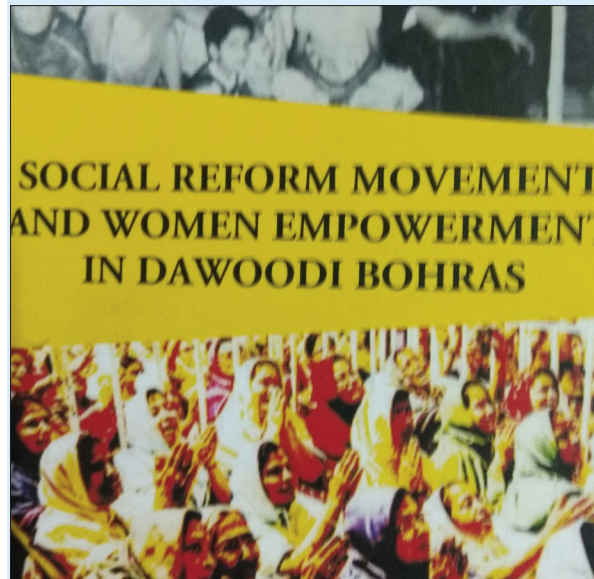
- Vilas Janve

## SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENT AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN DAWOODI BOHRAS

"Social Reform Movement and Women Empowerment in Dawoodi Bohras/ Zenab Banu/ Kalpaz Publications, Delhi/2020/Rs. 1180 HB/PP 311"

Dynamics of Social Movements: From Theory to Practice Prof. Zenab Banu's book Social Reform Movement and Women Empowerment in Dawoodi Bohras is a record of the dynamics of social movements derived from her own participatory observation of Bohra Youth Movement which according to her is a century old ongoing movement. The book is a product of a research project sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research and hence uses a methodology which rests on a great deal of primary and secondary data.

The introductory chapter gives the feel of a text book of social movements wherein a theoretical frame is set up to give the readers a point of reference for the study of the real movement which is recorded in the following chapters. The second chapter is an important history of the reform movements in Islam, especially in India. Most of these movements, their ideals and achievements have remained away from public knowledge and a wrong perception about Muslims as very rigid and conservative has been propagated. The Farazi Movement started by Shariatullah in 1804 which took up initiative to support the cause of the peasants needs to be taken out of the archives and written about in the present times to strengthen the peasant movement today. His son Muhsinuddin Ahmad alias Dudu Miyan had become a popular champion of the poor peasantry in Bengal of that time. His popularity caused grave concern among the Zamindars and the British rulers. This chapter also mentions Wahabi, Ahmadiya and Aligarh movements and underlines their liberal stance. The Aligarh movement has been dealt with in details since it is perhaps one of the most progressive movements of Muslims in India.



This is followed by the history of the evolution, faith and tenets of the Bohra community as a part of larger Muslim community. It is recorded that the Bohras were converted from middle class Hindu traders and businessmen to Islam in Gujarat by missionaries from Egypt and Yemen in 12th Century AD. It is very well said that they are strict observers of Islamic law but also have their affinity with Indian culture owing to their origin. The main focus on the Reform Movement begins with chapter IV in which main issues of the Dawoodi Bohra Progressive Movement have been delineated. The very first paragraph marks that the unrest began with the appointment of Syedna Abdul Quadir Nazmuddin as Dai. Prof. Zenab Banu maintains that the issues raised were pertaining to social and secular matters like the rights guaranteed by the constitution of India as fundamental rights, right to secular education, freedom of association, freedom to start a bank etc. It is alleged that the Syedna wanted his ultimate authority in these secular matters also. The objectives of the Bohra Reform Movement and its various phases have been described with sufficient details to make it a history of a community's struggle against religious autocracy.

It is emphatically stated in the book that Dawoodi Bohra Reform Movement has been able to survive due to the leading role played by women. Chapter V talks of the status of women in Dawoodi Bohra Community. Unlike the mainstream Muslim community women in Bohra community enjoy greater equality of opportunities, right to take decisions about their lives, higher education and employment. This is why they could assert their rights in various movements described in chapter VI. Prof. Zenab Banu has described various phases of the movement and very graphically narrated all that happened in Galiakot and Udaipur. The incidents of violence and molestation of women supporting Bohra Youth Association at the instigation of the followers of Syedna at Galiakot are very shocking.

There is a reference to Late Sh. Mohan Lal Sukhadia, former chief Minister of Rajasthan who was then the governor of Tamilnadu and took interest in resolution of the problem. Chapter VI contains some case studies of women like Razia Sanwari, Shamim R.V. and Amina Naath. One of these Ms. Rabiqa Liyakat is a very famous news anchor and TV journalist working with ABP news channel. These case studies are first person accounts of the struggle and success of these women due to the enlightened and progressive attitudes of their community. These narratives can motivate women of other communities also.

The last three chapters record the challenges, achievements and further goals of the Reform Movement. A glance at these pages reflects the high degree of optimism and resolve among the Bohra Youth Community. The book published by Kalpaz Publications and distributed by Gyan Books, Delhi is printed very well and is neatly bound. It makes an interesting reading. It would be good if the section of women's assertion and the case studies of the struggle of women could be culled out and printed separately in the form of small booklets in English as well as in Urdu and Hindi. Printed as low cost subsidized booklets they would prove very effective in motivating the younger generation to fight for their rights.

-Dr. H.S.Chandalia, Professor, Department of English, JRNU Udaipur

## Amazing show of Wood Cut Print making at Shilpgram

Recently I had an opportunity to witness an exhibition of Wood Cut Prints at Kala Vihar, Shilpgram with my friends Prof. Shreeniwasan Ayyar and Dr. Raghunath. This exhibition was the result of a special Workshop conducted at Bagore ki Haveli in the recent past and we missed to visit that time. Rewound artist and printmaker Shri Hanuman Kamblji from Goa shared his deep knowledge and rich experience in Wood Cut Print making with 24 young artistes of Udaipur who learnt this technique in detail from him. Wood Cut is contemporary style of Creativity popularly known as Graphics and attaining more

and more attentions of art lovers. Shri Kamblji encouraged creating prints on a variety of subjects. The participants gave shapes to their ideas in very impressive manner by producing fine prints. Some of them expressed emotions on current scenario (Covid-19), some printed social issues and nature. The Exhibition was inaugurated jointly by the art connoisseurs Smt. Nandini Bhatt, Director, Udaipur Airport and Dr. Razia Pendse, Regional Director, World Health Organization. While addressing to the gathering Smt. Nandini Bhatt appreciated artistes and intended to explore possibilities to open Art Gallery at Air Port that would



refresh and inspire the visitors and also provide economical support to artist clan. Dr. Razia Pendse told that Science and Arts both are equally important to Human beings. Science helps for outer progress while Arts provide inner development. Especially during these

days Art helps to reduce the mental pressure. She urged young artists to stay safe by observing all precautions to combat with Corona. Smt. Kiran Soni Gupta, Director, West Zone Cultural Centre, congratulated artistes for their remarkable creations and

ensured to extend all possible help to enhance their creativity. WZCC would make efforts to start Art Gallery at the Air Port. The art works of the artistes will also beautify the Poles (Gates) during Smart City project. WZCC is also organizing ongoing On Line Workshop wherein painters are creating artworks on incidents of Freedom struggle and Un-sung Heroes (Freedom Fighters) who contributed the great cause. This would be part of a special scheme "Shaurya" to celebrate 75 years of Freedom.

Seeing any Art Work with artist friends is a treat as we discuss many aspects while viewing the exhibition. My

friends not only appreciate quality works but also encourage young artistes by taking photos with them. Such creative activities of WZCC are bringing good results as while discussing with Sharmila Rathore and Sunil Nimawat (who assisted Shri Kamblji) they expressed their sincere thanks to WZCC who encouraged young artistes especially in this period of depression. Shri Shurveer Singh and Shri Praven Bhatnagar of WZCC were too happy to see the wonderful creations of young artists. I hope that the situation would soon be normal and all the artistes will have healthy and happy time ahead..

- Vilas Janve

## Prof. HD Charan's courtesy visit to the Hon'ble Governor

"Vice Chancellor Prof. HD Charan presented to Governor to implement value-based education system in the context of national education policy in all universities of the state"

**Bikaner:** Soon higher and technical education of the state and all the universities of the state will implement the agenda of national education policy with the new form of value based education system and will set the standard value of higher education by incorporating sacrament based education in the prevailing curriculum. A detailed work plan and vision report has been prepared under the direction of All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi and Bikaner Technical University Vice Chancellor HD Charan, which is the Vice Chancellor of Bikaner Technical University. HD Charan met Governor and Chancellor Kalraj Mishra Giving detailed information, Assistant Public Relations Officer Vikram Rathore said that a delegation of Director Academic Dr. Yadunath Singh and Dean Human Value Dr. Alka Swami, under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. HD Charan, presented a courtesy call from Governor and University Chancellor Kalraj Mishra and value-based Handed out a vision letter for a detailed action plan for education.

On this occasion, the Governor asked for effective implementation of the values and values based education system in the context of national education policy in all the universities of the state and invited the Vice Chancellors of all the universities of the state to invite suggestions in this regard as well. He also presented a copy of the "Human Values Education" Souvenir compilation of historical works of Bikaner Technical University, Gaurav Yatra of human values.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Charan while presenting the format of value-based education to the Governor, he was informed that special importance has been given to value-based education in the national education policy, if it is implemented in the universities of the whole state, then new standards will be set in the state and higher education. The vision paper of value

based education envisions a higher education system that is progressive, rich, creative and full of moral values that will work on the ground in reviving its glorious history. In this regard, suggestions will be made from all the vice chancellors of the state and this will be implemented on the ground. On the basis of suggestions received from the Vice Chancellors, the scheme will be finalized and its effective implementation will be done by the entire country including the state so that the higher education world can benefit. Termining this draft as useful and important, the Governor assured for its implementation soon and also appreciated the proposal of the Vice Chancellor and termed the inclusion of moral values in the national education policy as a proud pillar. The universities of the state will undoubtedly benefit from the provisions mentioned in this format, on this occasion, the Vice Chancellor and the Governor discussed extensively with the delegation on important topics related to the implementation of value-based education and set forth the outline. It is known that the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi is working in the country with a detailed action plan on the implementation of human values in higher and technical education.



Vice Chancellor Prof. Charan said that with the implementation of this model in the state, the higher education system will get a new foundation and our students will become more capable and empowered, value-based education has been considered as the main basis for the development in the National Education Policy. Students of our state will establish a new dimension with a new system of education and a new environment of human values will be created in the state. For the moral upliftment of the students of technical education, Bikaner