

**Name of Principal Investigator:- Prof. Dasharath G. Salunkhe**

**College Name:- Lal Bahadur Shastri College, Satara**

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**Title:- “BASAVRAJ S. NAIKAR: A CRITICAL STUDY OF HIS NOVELS”**

### **SUMMARY**

Basavaraj S. Naikar is great prolific Indian English Writer who revisits the history from cultural, socio-political and literary point of view. His novels like *The Sun Behind the Cloud* (2001), *Light in the House* (2006) and *The Queen of Kittur* (2009) are best example of historical novel. Basavaraj Naikar presents the history of minorities like Lingayat and Muslim of North Karnataka. Naikar, being a minority, does not blame any major group or religion for the problems of minorities. He presents the comprehensive history and present of minorities which is proud of not only that religion but entire India. He presents minorities not as isolated parts from the main society but he presents them comprehensively struggling for the Indianness and not have any minority conflicts in mind. He underlines the importance of perishing the social and cultural taboos of minorities.

The general acceptance that popular history is something which we already know, or that the victors write/ rewrite the history, does decimate the entire pursuit of history appreciably. However, a keen sense of historiography can intensify the writer's historical sense, thus enabling re-creation of history through a narrative. Establishing a rapport with the historical events through interrogation and interaction, will engage the writer more deeply with the historical events, may even necessitate consultation of additional sources to get the answers. It is precisely in this context that Basavaraj Naikar's *The Queen of Kittur* blends the boundaries that demark facts from fiction. The narration dovetails with the facts woven into literary imagination as is revealed by the historical events and socio-cultural activities. The ratio of facts and fiction can vary with each author and therefore the outcome may not comply with everyone's view of things. Nevertheless, it will allow a better appreciation for the many factors including, one's bias

and prejudice, that contribute to the understanding and interpretation of an historical event. This appreciation, in turn, will enhance the quality of historical researches.

One should not forget that Naikar is an artist and not a professional historian. He describes the historical struggle for freedom with historical accuracy and imaginative vision. He seems not to be interested in the depiction of history alone but in the historical truth of patriotism, which is applicable to any third world country which revolted against the ruthless colonial regime. Though *The Sun Behind the Cloud* is basically a historical novel Naikar has succeeded in transforming historical facts into a work of art. He achieves greatness as an accomplished artist as David Daiches said that historical novel is representation of history not mere as it is presentation. He represents history in such a way that it becomes more realistic than the original history. History simply gives us a linear adjustment of incidents but historical literary work foregrounds the facts and moral, ethical sides in the history. It gives us history and pleasure as well. In this sense Basavraj Naikar's present novels are a great contribution in the historical genre of English literary works.

Basavraj Naikar's novels consist of cultural theme as well. India is multicultural country and India follows the policy of Unity in Diversity. Naikar's novels are representation of diverse cultures in India. His *The Sun Behind the Cloud* shows how Indian culture is suppressed by British. They treat native culture as barbaric and uncivilized people. Most of the Indian as well impressed with the Western culture and they started to behave like them. This cultural assimilation, conflict and marginalization are reflected in the novel. In his *The Light in the House* two ethnic groups: Hindu and Muslim are reflected. This novel shows the cultural and ethnic harmony among the different cultural and ethnic groups. The protagonist in the novel is Muslim by birth but he has great impact of Hindu mythology and spirituality. Naikar's novels highlight the cultural and ethnic harmony in India.

Beside historical and cultural aspects socio-political aspect is dominant in the novel. *The Sun Behind the Cloud* is great example of politics. British ruled India with their great political policies. They took benefit of diversity in India and started to rule on them by separating them. This political policy brought social conflict in India. This novel instructs reader to bring harmony among the people. In same way, *Light in the House* hopes religious and social harmony in India. With the blend of history and fiction, he made a survey of Indian Culture, Society, economy and

political status in contemporary period. It makes reader to compare the present society with past and they can choose proper path for their glorious future.