

**CHILDREN'S PERIODICALS IN BENGALI 1885-
1920: A STUDY OF SAKHA AND SANDESH**

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**CHILDREN'S PERIODICALS IN BENGALI 1885-
1920: A STUDY OF SAKHA AND SANDESH**

by

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Submitted

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **Children's Periodicals in Bengali 1885-1920: A Study of Sakha and Sandesh** being submitted by **Devjani Ray** to the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for the award of **Doctor of Philosophy**, is a record of bonafide work carried out by her under my supervision. In my opinion, this thesis has reached the standards fulfilling the requirements for submission relating to the degree.

The contents of this thesis have not been submitted in part or full, to any other university or institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



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ABSTRACT

As nineteenth century Bengal experienced rapid social, cultural and political shifts, it emerged as an important seat of the imperial power. Around this time Bengal also became the centre of an incipient nationalism which would ultimately change the socio political map of the country. In the backdrop of such swift changes, this dissertation has attempted to study how children's literature in Bengali and juvenile periodicals in particular, moulded and informed the future adults of a 'nation in the making'.

Print literature for children in Bengal had its roots in the new methods and technology brought in by the Europeans. It allowed the missionaries and later the British to establish a socio-cultural hegemony over the natives. However, it was this juvenile print culture which emerged as a fertile terrain of contestation between the old values and the new, the oral and the print, the indigenous and the Western. Modelled on their metropolitan counterparts the Bengali children's periodicals reaffirmed the binaries of the civilized - uncivilized, masculine-effeminate, rational- irrational.

For the purpose of this study I limit myself to two significant juvenile periodicals *Sakha* (1883) and *Sandesh* (1913). Within the larger scheme of 'aesthetic imperialism' these two Bengali children's periodicals do not indicate any definitive or unified nation. The nature of nationalism which unfolds in these two periodicals is also muted and was far from being aggressive or militant which is usually associated with the later phases of the Indian national movement. What is most striking is the fact that in the pages of these two periodicals one encounters the gradual maturation of the native child from being a docile hesitant rebel to a potential future adult who would be rational and would have the audacity to question and challenge the established order.

सार

उन्नीसवीं सदी के बंगाल ने तेजी से सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक बदलाव का अनुभव किया, यह शाही सत्ता की एक महत्वपूर्ण सीट के रूप में उभरा। इस समय के आसपास बंगाल भी एक प्रारंभिक राष्ट्रवाद का केंद्र बन गया जो अंततः देश के सामाजिक राजनीतिक नक्शे को बदल देगा। इस तरह के तेजी से परिवर्तनों की पृष्ठभूमि में, इस शोध प्रबंध ने यह अध्ययन करने का प्रयास किया है कि कैसे बंगाली और किशोर पत्रिकाओं में बाल साहित्य विशेष रूप से, ढाला और बनाने में एक राष्ट्र के भविष्य के वयस्कों को सूचित किया।

बंगाल में बच्चों के लिए प्रिंट साहित्य गोरों द्वारा लाए गए नए तरीकों और तकनीक में अपनी जड़ें जमाए हुए थे। इसने मिशनरियों और बाद में अंग्रेजों को मूल निवासी के ऊपर एक सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक आधिपत्य स्थापित करने की अनुमति दी। हालांकि, यह किशोर प्रिंट संस्कृति थी जो पुराने मूल्यों और नए, मौखिक और प्रिंट, स्वदेशी और पश्चिमी के बीच चुनाव लड़ने के एक उपजाऊ इलाके के रूप में उभरा। अपने महानगरीय समकक्षों पर मॉडलिंग की बंगाली बच्चों की पत्रिकाओं ने सभ्य-असभ्य, मर्दाना-एफिलिएट, तर्कसंगत-तर्कहीन के बाइनरी की पुष्टि की।

इस अध्ययन के उद्देश्य के लिए मैं अपने आप को दो महत्वपूर्ण किशोर पत्रिकाओं सखा (1883) और संदेश (1913) तक सीमित करता हूँ। 'सौंदर्य साम्राज्यवाद' की बड़ी योजना के भीतर इन दो बंगाली बच्चों के पत्रिकाओं किसी निश्चित या एकीकृत राष्ट्र का संकेत नहीं है। राष्ट्रवाद की प्रकृति जो इन दो पत्रिकाओं में प्रकट होती है, वह भी मौन है और आक्रामक या उग्रवादी होने से दूर थी जो आमतौर पर भारतीय राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन के बाद के चरणों से जुड़ी होती है। क्या सबसे हड़ताली तथ्य यह है कि इन दो पत्रिकाओं के पन्नों में एक एक संभावित भविष्य वयस्क जो तर्कसंगत होगा और सवाल और स्थापित आदेश को चुनौती देने के लिए एक विनंर संकोच विद्रोही होने से देशी बच्चे की क्रमिक परिपक्वता मुठभेड़ों।

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