

## CHAPTER-2

### THEMES AND PLOT CONSTRUCTION OF MUSHAHARY'S NOVELS

#### 2.1 INTRODUCTION OF THEME

The theme of all six select novels of Chittaranjan Mushahary is about the social reality of the Bodo society. The issues like love, relationship, duty, responsibility, moral values, village economy, rural life, city life get reflected through the novels. The novelist writes about realistic issues. The prospects of music and love have been epitomized by the novelist in his novels. The concept of hatred and revenge has been highlighted in the novels.

##### 2.1.1 *JUJAINI OR*

The theme of *Jujaini Or* is mostly romantic. Here, he presented the theme of true love between Ajoy and Alaisri. The theme of this novel reveals how love became created a problem for them. It is seen that in the novel, the problems were created by Alaka and moreover by some natural disaster like floods. So as to say, if Ajoy's father would not have borrowed money from Alaka's father or without borrowing if he would have maintained family by some other means Ajoy would not have fallen in Pradip's net. Likewise, Alaisri's father could not pay back the borrowed money before his death, thus Alaisri had to be the housemaid in Pradip Mahajwn's family. For that reason ultimately Ajoy and Alaka had got married at the last moment. Alaisri's heart was broken by seeing all this; she became emotional and almost gone mad (Mushahary, 2009 reprint).

Although love is the main theme in this novel, the theme was melancholic. Because first their love was unconditional but at last it became so emotional (Basumatary, 1994). Love has been personified by the novelist here. It is at the centre of this novel.

### **2.1.2 *BIKHAYA GAOYW KHUGAYA GEOYA***

This novel represents the society and its different issues like love, relationship and marriage love is one of the dominating themes of the novel. But the element of love did not run smooth, it went through many ups and downs. The universal value of love has been highlighted in this novel. This has been made prominent by the character of Shanti. Her true love for Ajit made her sacrifice everything. Her character is really very commendable (Basumatary B. , 2007). She appears to be an epic kind of a character unlike Sita, Savitri, Behula and Damayanti.

On the other hand, Kalpana stands just in contrast to Shanti. She was a flirty woman. Her character can be compared with Manaranjan Lahary's novel *Alaishri*. At the same time, Premdhar is characterized as blind lover (Mushahary, *Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya*, 2013 reprint). These characters presuppose the theme of love in this novel.

### **2.1.3 *CALL GIRL***

Nilratan was quite successful staying in Calcutta city. He tries to bridge the gap between Assam and Bengal. His hard work and best efforts made him successful. There he met the Bengali girl Nilanjana. They fell in love with each other and used to share everything. The novelist creates a kind of bond between Nilratan and Nilanjana i.e. between Bodo and Bengali society. It was Nilanjana who encouraged him for each and every thing. With her inspiration he reached the highest pinnacle of success. At last, she suffered for no fault on her part. It was for being his beloved that she was made the target, to make him suffer (Mushahary, *Call Girl*, 2005 reprint).

On the other hand, the love of Nirmal and Sharmila was true and unconditional. It was successful in the sense that the society did not object to that. The novelist here shows the growing intimacy between the Bodo and the Bengali society. He emphasizes on the inter caste relationship that gives social harmony and cultural amity.

### **2.1.4 *KHITHER***

This novel deals with the political issue and social conflict. Moley, the main protagonist appears with a motive of revenge on his uncle Ramani. Ramani and Dharani also contribute the element of taking revenge. Finally, he was successful in getting back his father's property from his uncle. At the same time, he fulfilled his mother's wishes. With his efforts he developed the village Sonapur. After taking the revenge he became friendly with uncle Ramani and Dharani. This made the village people become more united. Through this aspect of forgiveness, Mushahary wants to show the strong bond of unity among the Bodos (Mushahary, *Khither*, 2007 reprint).

### **2.1.5 *PHULMATI***

The theme novel deals with the society. The main characters are Sonaram and Phulmati who were hails from the same village. The novel also deals with the character of love relationship between Ramwnda and Mayasri. He here tries to show the family ties between all the three families. The role played by Thobsa *Oza* was also very significant (Mushahary, *Phulmati*, 1998 reprint).

### **2.1.6 *UNDAHA***

Basically the theme of this novel is concerned with sociality. It includes their social morality, village economy, social custom. How the rich family carried on their activities or works with servant and housemaid. The author denotes all such situation clearly and thoroughly in the novel. In the ancient times, the Bodo people had to survive by being a servant and in a rich family in the village. The child who belongs to rich family, they get all kinds of facility for the study (Mushahary, *Undaha*, 1987).

## 2.2 PLOT CONSTRUCTION OF THE SELECT NOVELS

Plot is one of the basic components of any creative work. It is the sequential progression of events and incidents. Plot is an artistic structure that the writer builds out of the action and the plot progresses with the cast of characters and incidents (Waugh, 2010). There is always a main plot and a subplot. The plot refers both to the major as well as the minor characters. Moreover, the characters and events make a complete framework of a story (Foster, 2004). Here it can be referred to Aristotle's *Poetics* where he talks about plot as the main element that gives us the storyline (Daiches, 1975). According to Aristotle plot is the 'arrangement of incidents' and the 'imitation of an action' (17). He also talks about the unity of plot i.e. the unity of time, place and action. The novel namely *The Old Man and the Sea* by Hemingway can be considered an example of a novel that has a main plot (Brooks & Wimsatt, 1967). The other Novels like '*Bleak House*', '*Kharlung*' and '*Daini?*' have also sub-plots.

### 2.2.1 JUJAINI OR

The theme of love is one of the most dominating themes in the novels of Chittaranjan Mushahary. In his first novel *Jujaini Or* the characters like Ajoy and Alaisri depict the emotional bond of love. The main plot of the novel talks about the love relationship between Ajoy and Alaisri. This main plot is structured around the family of Ajoy and Alaisri, that is situated at Bhutiapara village near the bank of Swrmanga River. The plot also connects to another family at Dwikorguri village of Alaka.

Ajoy's father was a very rich man of Bhutiapara village. The family of Alaisri was also economically sound. On the same night the Swrmanga River overflowed causing a havoc throughout the village. The entire village was enundated with flood water. That flood water devastated the family and properties out there in the village and Alaisri's father lost his life in that heavy flood. Thereby, Alaisri had to stay as a maid in Pradip's house at Dwikhorguri village, as, she had to repay the loan taken by her father, before his death. On the other hand, the rich

Mahidhar also had to take loan from the money lender Pradip of Dwikhorguri village for pursuing his son's higher education after his Matriculation examination.

Later it is seen that Mahidhar was unable to pay the loan as he died on the night when flood water affected the entire village. Ajoy's family was also destroyed by flood. Before the death of Ajoy's father, Mahidhar had written a letter that had made Ajoy's life a complex one (Mushahary, Jujaini Or, 2009 reprint). The letter as it was written:

“फिसा, बिमानि खाराव-माराव आर'ज गाबनायखौ नौ  
लाखिनांगोन । नौ मोन्थिया जानो हागौ नौ मेट्रिकखौ बारनानै  
गुवाहाटीनि कटन कलेजाव फरायहैनाय दिननिफ्रायनो नौ अलकामोननि  
रांजौसो फरायदौ। नौ बिसिनि रांजौसो मानसि जादौ।

नौथ' मिथिगौ जौहा जा माइ गायग्रा हा दडमोन बेखौ  
सोरमांगाया खुरखाजोबलानायखौ। जौनि बिथाखौबो माब्लाबा  
खुरखासिगोन। होमब्ला, होमब्ला नौसोर बहा थानो।” (p. 23)

*[English Rendering: My son, you must keep the request of your Mother. You may not know the fact that after your Matriculation, you were financially helped by Aloka's family to study in Cotton College, Guwahati. You perhaps know that our land for paddy cultivation and our plot of land was eroded by flood water. Then, do you know, where you will stay now on?]*

After hearing this, Ajoy was mentally shattered. He was in a dilemma to which he could find no solution, as he has already developed a soft corner for Alaisri. He had to make a choice between Alaisri and Alaka. At last, he had no other way out and had to accept Alaka as his life companion. It was of course not out of love but out of moral duty and obligation. As a result of such a decision of Ajoy, his beloved Alaisri became mad. Ajoy came to know about Alaisri's madness from his friend Paresh. Thereby, Ajoy after knowing about Alaisri, he became a drunkard. He delved himself deep into liquor consumption. He became an alcoholic.

The plot of this novel deals with rural life, the devastating flood and real life situations. The story takes a tragic turn towards the end. The flood devastated the village and its villagers. The story also posits the socio-economic condition during the 1960s and 70s. The setting of the novel is rural and social picture (Chainary, 2009). The love story of Ajoy and Alaishri gives a kind of a comic relief to the tragic tune of the novel. The main character Ajoy faces the conflict between natural urges and social and moral expectations. Moreover, it has also focuses on folk society and folk life of the Bodos (Basumatary P. C., 2009).

### **2.2.2 BIKHAYA GAOYW KHUGAYA GEOYA**

The plot of this second novel revolves around the main characters like Ajit and Shanti and the sub-plot consists of characters like Kalpana, Sushanta, Premdhar and Iramuthi. The framework of the story poses the different phases of any relationship. The plot also demonstrates the society's impact on every relationship. The novel consists of both main and sub-plots. The main plot refers to a love story of Ajit and Shanti. The story begins with Premdhar in love with Kalpana. Ajit used to do his practical in Sushanta's laboratory. It has got introduced to Shanti, one of the leading characters as Sushanta's sister. During such instance Shanti fell in love with Ajit. The novelist shows here a kind of a love triangle. It so happened that sometimes Ajit was accompanied by Kalpana to the laboratory and sometimes he went alone to do his practical. Shanti was truly in love with Ajit, but Ajit had no feelings for Shanti. This hurt Shanti very badly.

One day when Ajit was returning from the laboratory alone, he met with an explosion and became blind. Shanti informed Kalpana about this incident. But, hearing this, Kalpana decided to leave Ajit forever and she visited Ajit only once. He was very eager to see her. But she did not bother to take care of him. Shanti was surprised at Kalpana's such behavior towards Ajit (Mushahary, Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya, 2013 reprint). She said to Kalpana:

“हाजार हक कल्पना, - बे बायदि खैफोदआव अजितआ नौखौनो खाथियाव  
लुबैयो।”

“अब्ला बियो बुंफिनबाय- लुबैनो हागौ। मा जाखादों मुलुगाव बेलखि हौवा?”

(p.19, 20)

*[English Rendering: Kalpana, Ajit wants to see you though he is blind, he needs to feel your presence. Kalpana in reply: “He might want me, but for what? Why should I go to him-is there only one man left in this world?]*

As soon as Ajit became blind, Kalpana stepped back. Her love was temporary. She then falls in love with Premdhar after Ajit becomes blind. She plays with love in regard to her relationship with Ajit. She plays with the life of Ajit and with his love life. Shanti was unable to stand the attitude of Kalpana. Ultimately, Shanti after discussing with her brother and her servant Narayan decided to rename her as Kalpana. She appears before Ajit whenever she takes the name of Kalpana. During their conversation once Shanti, in the form of Kalpana asked Ajit:

“शान्तिखौ नों सैयो ना सैया। अब्ला अजितआ एरै फिनदोंमोन- शान्तिखौ आं मोबायजोंबो सैया। बेयो सिमलायाव थांदों, हामदों।” (p. 27)

*[English Rendering: Do you like Shanti? Ajit said “no, I really don’t like her. It is good that she has gone to Simla.]*

Hearing this word, Shanti became emotional and disheartened. Tears rolled down her eyes. She decided to donate her eyes to Ajit out of her true and faithful love for him. Her love can be compared with the epic characters like Sita, Savitri and Behula (Narzary, 2010). Later on she inherits all her property in the name of Kalpana. She tried to commit suicide but at the request of her brother’s friend Sankar, she agrees to lead a life of a blind woman.

### 2.2.2.1 SUB PLOT

The sub plot also projects the momentary love relation between Kalpana and Premdhar. At the very beginning of the novel, it’s gets a reference to their first meeting in the College

library. It was a love at first sight between Premdhar and Kalpana. Though Kalpana responded to his love but he well understood that her love for him was not true. He thought:

“बे मुलुगाव कल्पना आरो गाव सारा रावबो गैया। बे मुलुगाव हिनजाव दड  
होनब्ला सासेल’ - बेयो जादों कल्पना।” (p. 4)

*[English Rendering: Kalpana and he were made for each other. There would be no girl like her in this world. She will remain the first and last girl in life.]*

Their relation did not last long. Kalpana ditched him. She fell in love with another man named as Ajit. This disloyalty made him a change smoker. He almost became mad. What he did was on a dog’s neck he hanged a paper on which it was written as ‘Kalpana’. Kalpana then tried to convince him with her false love. She said to Premdhar:

“आंखौ निमाहा होदो आदा, आंखौ अजितआनो फुस्लायनानै नोंखौ बावहोदों।  
नों आंखौ दा एनगारसै आदा।” (p. 25)

*[English Rendering: It was not my fault. Ajit convinced to leave you and to love him. Please forgive me for what I had done]*

Premdhar was convinced seeing her shedding crocodile’s tears. He again started loving her.

By then Ajit was cured of his blindness and went to complete his Doctorate degree under the guidship of Dr. Wambharbarg in Germany. After he returns back to the village, Premdhar received the wedding invitation of Ajit and Kalpana’s. Premdhar was totally broken. He said to himself:

“हिनजावफोरनि गासिबो फोथायखेबस’, बे माबायदि मालायखौ नांहोनो बेन्दों  
सायो। गासिबो जिबौ गांसोम, फोलाग्रा।” (p. 54)

*[English Rendering: The entire women folk must be known for their disloyalty and faithlessness. The women are entirely responsible for ruining the life of man.]*



The novelist here critiques the selfish and unfaithful women like Kalpana. Her love was very flexible. Her first love for Premdhar and finally it shifted for Ajit.

The main plot also gets connected with the sub-plot with the reference to characters like Sushanta and Iramuthi. Sushanta was secretly in love with Iramuthi, but he could not speak his mind to her. On the other hand Iramuthi was completely unaware of his love for her. However, Iramuthi got married to somebody else. Thereby, Sushanta left his job as a Professor from Cotton College and came back to his village. He made up his mind that he would not marry any girl other than Iramuthi. He felt like dying but at the thought of his sister Shanti, he lived his life somehow as, she has already become blind after donating her eyes to Ajit. She also tried to commit suicide by taking poison.

The plot of the novel puts forth the issue of relationship, love, care, understanding and co-operation. The novel strikes the note of despair in the life of certain characters like Premdhar, Santi, Sushanta and Ajit. Moreover, characters like Kalpana and Iramuthi remain undisturbed with the ups and downs of life. The characters depict the element of social bondage (Boro A. , 2010). Through the storyline the novelist speaks about the social reality. Through the cast of characters and incidents he tries to locate the individual identity of each of his characters both from the main and the sub-plot.

### **2.2.3 CALL GIRL**

Chittaranjan Mushahary's novel *Call Girl* talks about characters from Udalguri district and from Calcutta. The narrative also highlighted about picture of Beijing in China. We get introduced to characters like Nilratan, Nirmal, Sharmila, Nilanjana, Alakesh, Jagannath Chakraborty and Lakhyahira Mukhapadhyay. The novel begins with Nilratan's house in Udalguri. The other character Nirmal came to his house for a discussion. Here it finds these two characters had the desire to find a job outside their area i.e. in Calcutta. They had the belief that jobs are available in places like Calcutta. As the conversation goes, Nirmal said:

“आं कलिकातायाव खनसेल’ थांसिगोन। बिनिफ्राय बावनो प्रफेसरनि साख्रिफोरखौनो माव फैनोसै।” “मावबानो जाबाय। नाथाय आं जे मा बायदि साख्रि लुबैदों आं गावखौनो गाव हमसनो हायाखै। कलिकाताफ्रावखि माष्टारनि बादै माबाफोर साख्रि गैया?” कलिकातायाव साख्रि?” गावसोरनोबा मा जा मा था बाव साख्रि मोन्नाय मानि हाजोयाव खासेव बिदै नागिरनाय।” (p. 2)

*[English Rendering: I will go to Calcutta only once and come back and work as a Professor here. Nilratan in reply: “Oh, I see”. Nirmal in reply to Nilratan: But what kind of job you will be able to find there. Nilratan said in reply: Other than the job of a teacher, are there no other sectors in Calcutta? There also exists unemployment problem.]*

Both had a different opinion. Nirmal had the desire to stay at his village and work for his people. But, Nilratan wanted to live life in Calcutta. Nilratan tells Nirmal to let him know if he decides to move to Calcutta from Udalguri. Finally, Nilratan left for Calcutta, the city of joy and started living in a rented house in Balliganj area. There it gets introduced to another characters namely as Alakesh who was Nirmal’s friend and his sister Nilanjana. That place was not new for Nirmal, but everything was new for Nilratan. Gradually, the plot tells us about the growing love between Nilratan and Nilanjana. Nilanjana, never wanted Nilratan to go back to his village. Nilratan also developed a liking for staying in the city and wanted to do a job there (Mushahary, Call Girl, 2005 reprint). She said to him:

“साख्रिनि मा जिंगा? सानसे नडा सानसे मोनगोनना? मोनाबा मानसिफ्रा मानोथो इसिबां बोसोरे बोसोरे बि.ए., एम.ए. पास खालामदों। नों जिंगा दासि आदा। मोनसे नडा मोनसे जागोन।” (p. 18)

*[English Rendering: Why do you worry for a job? You will surely find one someday. Don’t worry. ]*

Nilratan then got a job in “Martin and Melbourne Limited Company” with the help of Alakesh and uncle Jaganath. His hard work and confidence made him General Manager of the company within a few years. He was also deputed by the company to go to Beijing. After his return he became the Director. There it gets introduced to two other characters namely Rajesh Senal and Abhijit Chakraborty. Both are corrupted employee of the company. Due to financial anomalies they were dismissed from their service. Their part of work was allotted to Nilratan as he was sincere and faithful enough to deal with the finance. As a result of which Nilratan became the victim. They wanted to take revenge on him.

Here comes to the climax of the novel. Nilanjana the beloved of Nilratan became their target. They entered once at Nilanjana’s place and by force took her to become a prostitute. They sold her to Lakhyahira for rupees twenty thousand. Nilanjana was missing for a number of days. Nobody could find her. At last, Nilratan found her in Bombay. By then, she became a call girl to which the title refers. When Nilanjana wanted to escape with Nilratan she was attacked with revolver and a dagger. Somehow, she could escape with Nilratan. Later, she kept the revolver and with that she killed herself out of shame and pain before Nilratan. Thus, Nilratan did not marry in his lifetime.

The narrative here emphasizes on the true and unconditional aspect of love and care. The plot signifies the motive of revenge. The narrator tries to give us the universal message of virtuosity and forgiveness (Kalyannath, 2012). The rarer action lies in virtue and not in vengeance (George, 1994). Here it has also come across both good and evil minded characters. The plot revolves around the plotting done by the characters with an evil intention.

The simple minded girl was victimized to become a call girl. The plot also talks about the characters like Nirmal and Nilratan’s desire to live a city life. They left Udalguri with an objective to be settled in a city. They were more after townish culture and worldly pleasures and less in love with their traditions.

### 2.2.3.1 SUB-PLOT

The plot also talks about another village named as Patakhata in Udalguri. Here we are to another character named as Sarmila, who was Nilratan's sister and was in love with Nirmal. Their relationship was not objected by anybody because Nirmal was a good natured man and he was good in study also. After his Matriculation he went to study in Presidency College in Calcutta and secured first class first position in M.A. He also got a job in a college nearby his village. Later in the novel, he got married with his beloved Sharmila.

The subplot also talks about another family in Jadavpur in Calcutta, the family of Alakesh and his sister Nilanjana. After their father's death they had to leave Jadavpur. They had to stay in a rented house at Baliganj in Calcutta. Nirmal also stayed in a rented house near their house. Later Nirmal left the house and Nilratan came in to stay there. Gradually, Alakesh was impressed by Nilratan and thereby agreed to get his sister married with him.

The other character named as Jagannath was the uncle of Alakesh. He was the Manager of the Textile division of Martin and Melbourne Limited Company. It was because of him that Nilratan got the job in the same company. Being one of the senior officers he helped Nilratan to secure a good position in the Company.

The subplot of the novel refers to two different families. The one from Udalguri, the other from Calcutta. The novelist here tries to connect the rural life with city bred life. He tries to compare the innocence in the characters from the village with the complexity in the characters from the city. Mushahary points at the purity, loyalty and passion in the village people and the revengeful, selfish attitude of the city people. Among the characters from the city Calcutta, Alakesh and Jaganath were harmless. The plot here is highly appreciable. It refers to a drastic change in a girl's life. She was forced to become a prostitute. This instance talks about a girl's predicament, for absolute no reason Nilanjana suffered (Mushahary, Call Girl, 2005 reprint).

## 2.2.4 KHITHER

The novel *Khither* revolves around the main character named as Moly. The text also deals with Moly and Bitika's love relationship. Here it is found the motive of revenge in the character of Moly. The novel has a subplot. The main characters from the subplot are Dharani and Ramani, Samen and Golapi. Moly was introduced as the son of Sobharam and Banati. His father died when he was a small child. His uncle Ramani disinherited them from the house and property. Moly's closest friend was named as Samiran, he was the son of a rich family. He was a spoiled child. In his company Moly also became a spoiled boy. His mother wanted to get him married. After discussing with her neighbor Lapati, she arranged for a bride- Badan Babu's niece. But Badan Babu seeing the poor condition of the family refused to the proposal of marriage between his niece and Moly. He said:

“साखाया पान्सार जाबा मोनसे खोथामोन। बिदिब्ला आं खायदा खालामनानै  
बाथे-बुथे खालामनो हागौमोन। नाथाय बे जाबाय इन्जिनआवनो गलमाल। बे  
गारिखौ आं हाया।” (p.17)

*[English Rendering: It would not have been a problem, if only the tyre were punctured. But here the engine itself is defective, not working. It is not possible to handle this car.]*

Banati tried to convince him that they have huge property, which was occupied by Moly's uncle by fraud and deceit. Moly came to know about everything. Moly took it as a challenge to find a girl to marry by himself and moved out of the house.

He somehow managed to find the *Dewani* (broker) of the village, named as Gunjer Goyary, the person who helps to find suitable partners for marriage and told him about his need for a girl to marry. Accordingly, the beautiful daughter of Mwnbari, Bitika was chosen to be bride. So, he was successful enough to find a girl like Bitika in Moly's life as his life companion. The *Dewani* gave the false information to Bitika's family that Moly is a Manager of a Company, having a personal car, getting high salary so on and so forth. After she came to

know about his background she left him. Moloy then decide to go back to his father's village, Sonapur.

His main intention behind his going back to that village was to take revenge on his uncle. Once his mother told him;

“सनाफुरनि नोमफानि धोन-सम्पत्तिखौ नों सेख'नानै लाफिनथारनांगौ। मानोना नोमफानि धोन-सम्पत्तिखौ नोमथिया खायदायै बायदायै नोमफा थैनायनि उनाव आंनि आखायनिफ्राय सेख'नानै लादों। होमबा नों थाबाय जेन्नोल' रोंदोंमोन। बेनिफ्राय आं होखारजादोंमोन। होखारजानानै दाबसे बेसेबा गोजानाव थांनानै मेगनाव मोदै खुगायाव खुदै लानानै मालायनायाव थायै थायै बिथा खरलेबसे बायनानै नोंखौ मानसि खालामदों आं। नों बिनि खिथेरखौ होखारिफन्नांगोन फिसा। नडाबा आं थैनानैबो सान्थि मोननाय नडा।” (p. 1)

*[English Rendering: You have to take revenge on your uncle. He has captured all of your father's property and made us suffer. It was because of him that I had to work as a servant in people's house. I somehow have managed to buy a plot of land. If you don't take revenge on him, I will not get peace even after I die.]*

After he came to the village, he could know about the quarrel between Dharani Babu and Ramani Babu. They hated each other. They had enmity between each other. In the election Dharani Babu was defeated by Ramani Babu and that made Ramani Babu more powerful.

The plot talks about the motive of revenge, unfaithfulness and greed. The novelist here refers to the extreme to which lust for wealth can degrade a human being. The plot talks about the motive of revenge, unfaithfulness and greed. The novelist here refers to the extreme to which lust for wealth can degrade a human being (Boro, 2011).

Moloy started constructing roads and made himself busy in some other works. On the other hand Bitika started working as a care taker in Sobharam Girl's School. In that situation she met Moloy but they remained as strangers. Gradually both felt for each other and she was

uncomfortable in working with Moloy. Thus, she resigned from the school. But after she left also she had feelings for him deep inside her heart. As a result of which she used to apply vermilion on her forehead.

So to say they were married with each other. The villagers did not know about their secret marriage. Meanwhile, Moloy was badly beaten up by his childhood friend Samiran at the suspicion of having an affair with Golapi. Bitika came to know about his critical condition and came to visit him at the hospital. She said:

“बुं बुं सुवामि नौखौ सोर बिब्दि खालामा?” (p. 75)

*[English Rendering: My dear who did this to you?]*

The villagers finally came to know about their relationship i.e. husband and wife.

#### 2.2.4.1 SUB PLOT

The sub plot of the novel deals with the enmity between Dharani and Ramani of Sonapur village. Dharani used to organize the Puja mela every year in the village field. He used to earn Rupees seven thousand from the mela. One day both his sons died out of cholera during the mela. Ramani wanted to stop organizing such melas but Dharani was only after earning a huge amount of money. There started their enmity.

Then there was election. Both Ramani and Dharani contested in the election and Ramani won. His party gave slogans as:

“रमनी बाबु देरहानायनि जै। धरनी बाबु जेन्नायनि जै।” (p. 2)

*[English Rendering: Long live Ramani Babu. Ramani Babu ki Jai. Dharani Babu has been defeated.]*

They could not stand each other success. They became jealous of each other.

The sub plot also refers to the characters like Samen and Golapi, the son of Ramani and the daughter of Dharani respectively. These two families were not in good relations. At the end of this novel, we find Moloy requested Dharani:

“आं बेखौसो बुंनो सानदों आयं नों गलापिखौ फंबाय समेननो हरदो। होमबाना नोंसिनि नायनो हालायिआबो नायनो हालायगोन। गोरोबगोन। आर गामियाबो नोंसोर सानैनि हेफाजाब मोनबा साबसिन हामसिन जागोन।” (p. 73)

*[English Rendering: Uncle. I just want to tell you that Somen and Golapi are made for each other. Allow them to get married, then the enmity between the two families will also end.]*

Since then, Somen and Golapi’s marriage was solemnized and the two families became friends. It was not a marriage between two persons but between two families as well. The two families lived with peace and harmony ever after (Mushahary, Khither, 2007 reprint).

### **2.2.5 PHULMATI**

The novel deals with the society. The main characters are Sonaram and Phulmati from the same village. The subplot deals with the love between Ramwnda and Mayasri. Here he tries to show the family ties between all the three families. The role played by Tobsa *Oza* was also very significant.

Sonaram is the step son of Jarlarsi. His mother died when he was only one months old. His father went for a second marriage. After one month of the marriage, his father died out of snake bite (cobra). As a result, Jarlasi brought up Sonaram in great pain and hardship. His house was located in Kalugami. Phulmati was also brought up by a step mother. But her mother was not like Sonaram’s mother who was so kind hearted.

It deals with a social issue. Here it gets a reference to Bodo community’s social and religious ethics (Brahma R. K., 1994). The character Mayasri was excommunicated from the Bodo society for having sexual relationship with Ramwnda, son of village headman Gwmbwr by the village people. The Bodos are very strict regarding all this (Boro M. R., 1990).



A reference to love is also given through the characters of Sonaram and Phulmati. Their love was pure and true. But Phulmati could not go against the decision of her parents. There was a relationship between Mayasri and Ramwnda but it was not a true love. Here the writer comments on both true and untrue love between his characters.

Tampwi Delai's daughter name was Mayasri, she was own daughter whose name is Sakuntala in school. With mother's love and care she came to lose character. This happens only because of her mother. When she was only class VI, mother brought her back from Bijni and admitted in local school near the village. The village headman Gwmbwr's son Ramwnda sometimes comes to teach some subjects to Mayasri as per her mother request. In this way, they incidentally fall in physical relationship, for which Mayasri became pregnancy. In that case villagers try to justify the matter through the meeting. In the meeting Mayasri did not responding the question asked by the people. So, the society boycotted her from the society and she began to live in an isolated house near the village field as per the customary laws of the Bodo society as they have committed social offence or *Agarbad* (Brahma, 2015). On the basis of this matter Gwmbwr secretly talked with Tampwi Delai, to go Phulmati with him, then he would not take huge amount of money from them. Then he said he will give 10 Bighas land in the name of Tampwi Delai. Hearing all these things Tampwi Delai agreed to give Phulmati. Father also agreed. On the other hearing this matter Sonaram fall in sad. One day Sonaram met Phulmuti and thought of ran away from this place to other peaceful place to make successful of their love. But Phulmati could not do that. Because she could not ignore parents order and society rule. Sonaram could not bear any more and one day in own room he died by hanging himself. After coming to know all these matter Phulmati deeply gets pain and cried without any sense. Thus, on the day of her marriage she also died buy drinking potassium seined poison (Mushahary, Phulmati, 1998 reprint).

### **2.2.5.1 SUB PLOT**

Mayasri is a daughter of Thampwi Delai and Thebgang. Thampwi Delai brought up Mayasri since childhood with full love and care and she got every facilities whatever she wants. Because of all these Mayasri did not learned how to respect others, even she did not knows the

different among senior and junior. If somebody asked she told her father as a servant. She learned about love where she was in Bijni only. One day she sent a love letter in his father's pocket to boyfriend. All these are the character of Mayasri. She changed her school from town and came back to village school and met Ramwnda. Later, she falls in love with Ramwnda. On the name tuition they played physical relationship. After two months then mother came to know about her daughter's condition. Mayasri did not know why Ramwnda was falling in love with her. Though the people of the village did not know about the matter but her elder sister knows everything.

Later, Ramwnda began to ignore her. Because Mayasri is got pregnant. In that situation Thampwi Delai asked daughter Mayasri secretly, "Who did it and whose policies it is?" But Mayasri did not respond anything, she said only "I don't know." One day she realized herself and as per her mother word, she met Ramwnda and asked him to marry her. But Ramwnda did not accepted the proposal. He asked to make abortion with a Doctor in Dhubri. Then only Mayasri comes to know about the character and mind of Ramwnda. One day a public meeting was held in the village. Mayasri did not tell anything to village headman and to the villagers in the meeting. Ultimately she has been boycotted from the society. She left the village and stay alone in a house near the village field and there she gave a birth of a baby boy.

### **2.2.6 UNDAHA**

The novel begins with Sambaru's family in Khwirwbari village. The plot talks about three families namely Sambarus, Nibaran's and Gobin's family. The novelist talks about a rich family. Here it also gets reference to master slave relationship (Hudson, 2000). The narrative gives us the picture of social reality through the cast of characters and incidents that he gets regret in near future.

The character Shyamal was introduced as a lazy person. He lived in a world of music. He was a singer. Music was his life and his passion. Being a graduate he was not interested any work. He rather decided to pursue his career in the line of music. He wanted to go to the radio

station at Guwahati. He asked for some money from his father, but instead of some money he got a very good scolding from his father. His father said:

“बि.ए. पास जाबाय साख्रीफोरथ’ लालै। मा सैमा फागलाबादि सामफ्रामबो  
रोनावनाय। दोनै मेथाय गामोन गान बाजना। गैया रां गतसे गैया।” (p.14)

*[English Rendering: Being a graduate you are not willing to find a job. Every day, you shout like a dog. You are busy with movies and party, even if you don't have money in your pocket.]*

He became very upset. It was Mira who helped him with some money to go to Guwahati for the audition at the radio centre.

Once his father arranged for his marriage but he did not agree. His father said:

“आंनि गथ नडा नों हारामजादा। दिनैनिफ्राय आंनि उन्दुग्रा, ओंखाम संग्रा  
ननि दरजाया नौनि थाखाय बन्द’। दोनैनो दानो नों आंनि न’निफ्राय।”  
(p.43)

*[English Rendering: Bustard, you are not my son. From now my doors are closed for you forever. Get out of my house.]*

Shyamal became helpless. He was unable to understand what to do and what not to do. He went to Mira for help and suggestion. Seeing their growing intimacy, Mira's father, Gobin, decided to make them marry. He had a talk with Shyamal's friend Nikil. Shyamal used to come to her house to teach her singing. After the marriage, Shyamal was made the heir of Gobin's property. He got rupees twenty thousand and fifty bighas of paddy field as Mira's husband and Gobin's son-in-law.

In the novel, it is also found that Mira's father and husband had TB disease. Her father died out of that and her husband was also died due to this disease. He said:

"बेयो खमायग्रा बेराम नडा मिरा, खमायग्रा बेराम नडा। बारायग्रासो! एरग्रासो  
थै सोबग्रासो! हर हर मीरा हारमनियाम। थैनाव थैनाव दामनो आं। देखो,  
खबाम आरो नॉनि निस्थार अन्नाय, मोजां मोन्नायखौ लानानै ँबुन दाबसि  
जाय। याव थानोसें आं। अनसुली मीरा आंनो हर हर हारमनीयामआ। मेथाइ,  
देखो, खबामानो आंनि जिउ आर नॉ आंनि बिखलो, बिथै!" (p.69)

*[English Rendering: It is a fatal disease. It cannot be cured. My beloved, Mira, please give me the Harmonium. I want to sing till I die. I want to be lost in the world of music. The Harmonium is my soul and you are my heart.]*

Mira heart was completely broken. All her life's dreams were shattered.

### 2.2.6.1 SUB PLOT

The subplot refers to Sambaru's family. He had five sons. The two eldest sons Naresh and Paresh had higher education. One became an advocate and the other became a Mondal (one who deals with land and pattas). They were well settled in Dhubri and Soraibil respectively with their families. At one instance, Sambaru's land was affected very badly by flood caused by the overflowing of the Swrmanga River and his family suffered from destruction. He went for help to his well established sons but they denied to help their father in that period of crisis. Naresh said:

"पायग्रा हायानो ँलिया। जॉबोथ' भां खौनो मोनथिया। बिब्दियाव आं मालाय  
बोरै रां हरलायखो?" (p. 66, 67)

*[English Rendering: The flood has destroyed the paddy field, why should I give you money?]*

After one month his wife Bilaisri passed away. Sambaru did not get help from anywhere except for his fifth son Sonaram.

The subplot also refers to the maids in Sambaru's house namely Gojen and Durlai. They were in love with each other. Durlai took care of Gojen during dinner time. He was served full plate rice, eggs, meat and other items by Durlai. Whenever she used to get chance, she used to feed him to the full. Once they eloped from Sambaru's house at night during the rainy season. The story deals with the theme of love, master slave relation, hierarchy of the riches and so on. Moreover, music acts as a consolation here. The novelist talks about the divine music with a heavenly feeling which is found in human society (Mushahary, Undaha, 1987).

### 2.3 CONCLUSION

From the discussion it is found that the theme and plot construction of the novel is reflection of various socio-cultural behaviours of human society in general and Bodo society in particular. In the present study, it also found that the novelist tries to highlight the various aspects of social conditions through his novels.

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