

A Critical and Thematic Study of Banamali Biswal's "Bubhukṣā"

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Abstract

Prof. Banamali Biswal is one of the prolific writers of Sanskrit. His writing involves every sphere of human lives. This paper examines his narrative style, themes, his ways of characterization, human psychology and the different layers of emotion used in his stories. The best part of his stories is his plot setting. Some of his stories are set up in villages while some others in cities. He gives every small and minute detail of his surroundings. He talks about the people who lived on that particular region, their culture, their tradition in his writings in general and stories in particular. His characterization is very much grounded with the involvement of common societal structures. Banamali Biswal's stories revolve around the themes of the common man and society. He deals with the struggles, aspirations and dilemmas faced by ordinary people in the backdrop of societal structure. Issues like poverty, social injustice and the clash between tradition and modernity are recurrent in his works, reflecting a deep understanding of the complexities within the Indian Society of today's time. The common man is typically depicted grappling with economic hardships, caste discrimination and the oppressive nature of societal norms. The narrative often portrays characters from diverse backgrounds, highlighting the disparities prevalent in Indian society during the early to mid 20th century. Banamali Biswal's characters often face financial struggles and difficulties, showcasing the harsh realities of agrarian life and the challenges posed by economic disparity. He explores the impact of poverty on individuals and families, emphasizing their resilience and determination to overcome adversity. He also talks about the discrimination faced by lower caste and poverty stricken people. He critiques the social hierarchy and advocates for social equality. His characters suffer badly due to the deep-rooted prejudices prevailing in the society. The writer addresses the issues of social injustice, portraying instances where the underprivileged are exploited by those in power. Through his stories he also criticizes the inequalities in the justice system and societal structures and perpetuates oppression. Many of his stories explore the tension between traditional values and the influence of modern ideas. Characters often find themselves caught between adhering to traditional norms and embracing progressive thoughts, reflecting the hanging dynamics in Indian society. Family also plays a major role in his stories. His narratives are full of intricate portrayals of familial relationships and the challenges faced within the family unit. He explores themes of filial piety, generational conflicts and the evolving role of woman within traditional households.

Keywords:

Bubhukṣā, women, poverty, child issues

Introduction:

Bubhukṣā contains 24 Sanskrit short stories by the esteemed contemporary poet, storyteller, and critic, Banamali Biswal. In the preface of Bubhukṣā, the renowned author and thinker, Devrishi Kalanath Shastri, states, "Bubhukṣā represents the contemporary trend of writing in a simple and innovative style,

reflecting the narrative literature in modern social settings. Banamali Biswal has undertaken the important task of creating a representation of contemporary life through his stories using new expressions and words that resonate with the realities of modern society. In the first story of Bubhuksā, titled 'Aṣurvaṃ Pārishramikam', the author portrays the victimization of Papunā, a simple-hearted laborer who resorts to polishing shoes to earn his living, becoming a target of atrocities by the immoral goons. The narrative sheds light on the ethical degradation prevalent in our society. The story brings to the forefront the societal paradox where a thirteen-year-old boy, Papunā, compelled by the need to sustain his starving family, resorts to dishonest means for survival. The story emphasizes the stark realities of moral decline. The story illustrates the plight of an innocent boy, Papunā, who is compelled to polish shoes to support his family. While one side of the story depicts the luxurious life of upper-class youth, the other side portrays Papunā's struggle as a victim of poverty. Misuse of wealth on one hand and a dream shattered under the burden of basic life necessities on the other. While some young men in an air-conditioned room watch inappropriate films, in the same room, Papunā, a poor boy, dreams and struggles, facing the ups and downs of life. It skillfully highlights the stark contrast between the cultures and mentalities of two different classes. This story conveys the message of familial responsibilities to the reader through the remarkable sacrifice of a lower-class boy. In the story the narrative delves into the profound understanding of socio-economic inequalities, struggles, and disparities arising from social discrimination. The story contrasts the luxurious lifestyle of upper-class youth with the destitution and struggles of lower-class youth. It highlights the misuse of wealth on one hand, and on the other, the dreams of fulfilling life's basic necessities for an impoverished boy. The narrative underscores the clash between a luxurious lifestyle devoid of moral values and the daydreams of fulfilling familial duties. In this story he talks about the challenges faced by a young boy named Papunā. With no support, he faced exploitation as a teenager. However, he was trying his hard to hope up the irumstans but all his efforts were going into vain. He was a boy of merely 13 years and he had to take care of his ill mother as well as his younger sister. Because of poverty he was forced to become a child laborer. He was leaving his home early morning to polish shoes. He was doing his work with full dedication still people were not ready to give him proper wages. This shows how people are becoming so selfish. They are only worried about themselves.

The story 'Kadā āgamiṣyati Durabhāṣaḥ' portrays the false pretense and helplessness of the middle class. The storyteller, with a compassionate view, emphasizes that no oppressed or neglected character in society could escape notice. This story depicts the paradox of a telephone connection obtained through a loan, where the protagonist has no real need for it, showcasing the absurdity of societal expectations and desires. The story portrays the realistic perspective of a clerk, leading a meager life, and presents the tragic life of a lower-middle-class character involved in a whimsical incident. In the story 'Kinnaraḥ', the mental, physical structure, and natural activities of a eunuch are depicted. The story presents the harrowing experiences of Dāmodara, who is forced to endure discrimination due to his caste. The story provides a psychological analysis of the character, a eunuch, and portrays the societal biases and difficulties he faces. In 'Paradharmo Bhayāvahaḥ', tells us that the Indian culture, which attracts foreigners and draws them away, has not been able to bind even the Indians themselves. This paradox forms the basis of the story, where the author has woven the narrative intricately with his imaginative power. Here the author gives special importance to the attraction of ancient Indian culture and emphasizes the practice of one's dharma. This story illustrates the contemporary youth disrespecting their civilization and culture. Alongside, the courageous decision of a foreign woman, Ileana, to live permanently in India by breaking off her love relationship is an ideal situation, promoting the development of modern youth towards their own culture. The story humorously depicts the ignorance of Indians about the virtues of their own culture and the fascination of foreigners with Indian culture.

The event-based story ‘Tamasācchannā Dīpāvalī’ is written on the subject of social oppression, presenting a poignant image of capitalist society's heartless division. The storyteller, through subtle observation, has given shape to stories using natural storytelling techniques to depict the subtle characteristics of various characters and situations. This story is based on the subject of social oppression, providing a poignant depiction of the heart-wrenching reality of a ruthless capitalist society. The story ‘Dushcharitrā’ portrays the character of the heroine realistically and straightforwardly. In this story the protagonist Saudāminī adopts the modern liberated behavior of attracting multiple men, eventually leading to her humiliation. This story comments on the contemporary societal trend where women, with their liberated behavior, attract men of various age groups. In this story, Biswal criticized the wrong notion prevailing about woman in the society. Through the character of Saudāminī the writer wants to give a message that instead of judging others wives one should remain happy and pay attention to their own wives. And we are no one to raise finger on the character of any woman. The story ‘Vāsudevasya Janmadinam’ is an expression of the suppressed motherhood of the victim Śankarī, which leaves an indelible mark of suffering. This is a story of a self-centered husband sending a gift to his superior, accusing his innocent wife, marrying another woman while neglecting the pain of a mother, and simultaneously expressing the desire for the bright future of the child through the appropriate arrangement of taking him away from prison portrays both reality and an ideal situation. The story narrates how the protagonist Śankarī, manipulated by her husband Pundarika. This poignant tale portrays the sacrifices made by a simple and honest woman to uphold her virtue, eventually leading to her imprisonment and the birth of a son behind bars. He even shows the pitiable situation of Śankarī who is exploited by her own husband Pundarika. The narrative highlights the theme of social injustice and the struggle of marginalized communities for basic rights and dignity.

‘Rājadhāni-Yānena Rājadhāni-Yātrā’ features two friends who become the butt of humor due to ignorance and lack of experience. In the story two naive villagers, unfamiliar with modern systems, unwittingly become subjects of societal ridicule. The narrative showcases the challenges faced by the characters due to their ignorance. In the story "Abhiśaptaḥ Devadāsaḥ," despite being neglected and adorned with numerous inauspicious titles by society, Devadas maintains a non-attached perspective like a selfless karma yogi. The author's focus on the protagonist's individualistic philosophy reflects a broader critique of the prevailing capitalist system. The story exposes the poignant life story of Devadāsa, an unfortunate unmarried and childless individual, cursed by destiny. The intense flame of superstitions in society engulfs him, and his inner turmoil permeates every part of his being. Enduring pain becomes his nature, and even in his final moments, this cursed Devadāsa covers his face with a handkerchief. It reveals the dreadful consequences of blind faith, depicting the tragic transformation of Devadāsa into a victim of superstitions. Meanwhile, ‘Pratiśodhaḥ’ skillfully narrates a murder committed out of revenge as an unfortunate accident. The story ‘Lobhāsaktaḥ Kathākāraḥ’ describes the greediness of a writer. The story hints at the negative aspects of literature and society, reflecting the author's concern for the malpractices prevalent in both. The story tells the tale of a storyteller driven by the desire for prestige more than his talent, ultimately facing humiliation. This story serves as a warning to literary figures engaged in manipulating and breaking bonds for fame. ‘Ādhunikācāryaḥ’ presents a stark portrayal of the widespread blindness in society, showcasing the intense inclination towards irrational beliefs. Even a teacher is unable to escape from this societal mindset.

In ‘Balidānam’, the narrative describes the extraordinary sacrifice made by an individual for their family. The story addresses social responsibilities, affection, poverty, and the exploitation of life struggles arising from dowry. On one hand, it depicts the life struggle of Raju, and on the other hand, the mother's concerns for her young daughter portray an ideal situation. In ‘Sanāthoapi Anāthaḥ’, the leprosy-stricken couple, out of natural affection for their son's bright future, are compelled to leave him in an orphanage.

This story depicts the daily routine of a couple suffering from leprosy, begging in front of the temple, expressing mutual feelings, and the compassionate attitude towards relationships and children. The story presents a truthful portrayal along with an idealistic view towards the well-being of the child. The narrative in 'Aśubhamukhaḥ' vividly portrays the anguish of a youth grappling with the repercussions of societal superstitions. It's a poignant depiction of the harsh reality of social injustice. 'Adhyāpakasya Karuṇakathā' describes the dire situation of the family and social life of today's private college teachers. In 'Viśvāsaghātopi Sukhāya', the act of betraying trust for the sake of a friend's well-being is considered praiseworthy. Through this message, the author establishes the ideal of friendship. The story demonstrates that sometimes betrayal of trust for the well-being and happiness of a friend is praiseworthy. The story conveys the ideal of friendship through this message. In 'Dīpaśikhāyāḥ Sanskrita-śikṣā', the lack of attention to time in the absorption of teaching, the patience and seriousness of the teacher (not responding to Dasgupta's criticism immediately), and the suspension of teaching in accordance with social norms present an ideal situation for shaping life. This story depicts the torment of a wife at the hands of her husband. This tale sheds light on the prevalent subjugation of women's desires in society, illustrating the cultural norm where wives suppress their wishes for their husband's desires. 'Apuṛvaḥ Tyāgaḥ' endeavors to consolidate social responsibilities. It portrays the freedom of modern society's lifestyle. The narrative portrays the realistic fulfillment of physical ambitions and the simultaneous collapse of ethical values. Following this, the author presents a scenario of unparalleled sacrifice, turning the story towards an ideal situation.

The story titled 'Bubhukṣā' depicts a beggar among a group of beggars stealing a coin from a blind girl's alms. This narrative brings forth a thought-provoking subject, as the beggar, desperate to feed his starving family, resorts to the act of stealing from a beggar girl. The story adds depth to the societal issue of robbing the destitute. The stories such as 'Dīpaśikhāyāḥ Sanskrita-śikṣā', 'Ādhyunikācāryaḥ' 'Abhishapto Devadāsaḥ', 'Balidanam', 'Adhyāpakasya Karuṇakathā', 'Bubhukṣā,' etc., all reveal the multi-dimensional and expansive thinking of the author. They serve as a medium for readers to understand the pain of various classes across different sectors and situations in society. The extraordinary qualities of characters experiencing personal, familial, or social pain are vividly presented in these stories. The tales of "Adhyāpakasya Karuṇakathā" Sukharāmasya Sukhanidrā," etc., laden with pathos, captivate readers' hearts and offer profound insights into the culture, ethics, and philosophy of modern society. Through these varied emotions, the stories become a catalyst in introducing the richness of contemporary literature in Sanskrit. The language and narrative style of these stories provide an easily relatable and profound experience for the readers. The flow of language and the artistic expression in the stories create an engaging and emotionally resonant reading experience.

Prof. Banamali Biswal leaves an indelible mark on readers' minds with his insights into the struggles of common people, particularly those in rural areas. Through his stories in the book *Bubhukṣā*, Biswal explores human relationships, poverty, caste discrimination, and social injustices prevailing in the society. He talks about all the human conditions dealing with women's issues, child issues in his literary works. His stories resonate with readers, capturing the essence of life and the unwavering human spirit in the face of adversity. He even talks about the financial hardships that are generally faced by people. It seems from his writing as if he has experienced everything himself. He talks about the struggles of ordinary people in his stories. In many of his stories Banamali Biswal fearlessly challenges the societal norms, advocating for social justice and shining a spotlight on issues of caste, gender, and poverty.

In the present literary landscape, the most influential and expansive form of expression in Sanskrit is through short stories or narratives. Banamali Biswal's stories have the power to captivate the hearts of many readers. Not only he is a renowned storyteller, but he is also recognized as a proficient poet,

introducing new idioms and expressions. Each literary work today reflects the turmoil of contemporary times. However, the stories of Bubhukṣā by Banamali Biswal present a vivid picture of absolute truth. The storyteller skillfully weaves simplicity, sincerity, and emotional expression in his narratives. Truly, these stories engage and hold the reader's attention with their gripping plots and events. It is widely acknowledged that storytelling in Sanskrit has gained popularity as a form of literature capable of representing the eternal tradition. Since the publication of 'Shivarājvijaya' by Pt. Ambikādatta Vyāsa in contemporary style. Banamali Biswal's stories have resonated with numerous readers, establishing him not only as a storyteller but also as a skilled craftsman in creating new proverbs and narratives. His works have been published in various newspapers and magazines. Banamali Biswal's stories have the ability to touch the hearts of many readers, serving as a harbinger of the flourishing modern Sanskrit literature. Banamali Biswal's stories embody realism and ideals, both in individual and societal contexts. The first prerequisite for a vigilant, insightful, and conscious writer is to remain connected to contemporary circumstances. Life is perpetually changing, rendering any specific thoughts, reflections, or principles irrelevant for all time. In the context of the ever-evolving conditions of life, reconsideration of specific thoughts becomes crucial. Analyzing modern fiction, it becomes evident that successful authors are adapting fundamental ideas to the current circumstances. His thinking can be categorized into two parts: Realism and Idealism, Individualism and Socialism. Bubhukṣā feature numerous stories that vividly depict the reality of everyday life. The foundation of these stories is rooted in reality, but many stories, such as 'Paradharmo Bhayāvahah,' 'Vāsudevasya Janmadinam,' 'Duścharitrā,' 'Sanātho'pi Anathaḥ,' 'Dīpaśikhāyāḥ Sanskrita-sikṣā,' 'Balidānam,' 'Bubhukṣā,' etc., also incorporate the sentiments of ideals alongside reality. Through realism, the author has made an effort to understand the problems of society, while ideals envision the appropriate development of society.

Banamali Biswal's stories connect with the common man, vividly portraying fear, deception, despair, and defeat. The connection with ordinary people is the secret to the success of his stories, and this connection is evident in the broad acceptance of his narratives. The depiction of various characters' development in natural circumstances showcases his skill in handling different narrative roles. The storyteller has depicted the multi-dimensional relationships between individuals and society by understanding and introspecting them, expressing them through narratives based on emotional imagination, creativity, and self-realization. The author has delved into the pitiable condition of the common man and explored the intricacies of their struggles. These stories attempt to peek into the dark lives of many characters that exist on the margins of society. This category includes characters that are oppressed, marginalized, deprived, and resilient for their existence. These characters in the all-encompassing category exhibit their vulnerabilities, thoughts, and values beyond moral and immoral considerations. The author, through a simple, compassionate, and empathetic perspective, has introduced readers to new dimensions of human compassion in these narratives. Numerous stories depict the struggles of common people, the breakdown of values on the family level, selfish behaviors in the professional field, and the revelation of society's flaws. They aim to expose the societal issues prevalent in contemporary Indian life, such as the exploitation of social inequality, economic disparities, and the transformation of ideologies. In these stories, the author has portrayed various aspects of different situations, presenting the diverse perspectives of ordinary people. Overlooking neutrality and impartiality, the narratives emphasize connectedness with the world of life.

These stories depict the contemporary society with a realistic portrayal of simple and familiar scenes, incorporating the various characteristics of modern short fiction. The concise and powerful narratives, along with skillful style, language, and emotional understanding, illuminate the literary path. The stories make an effort to bring forth the realities of the present time, blending the straightforwardness of common life with a humanistic perspective. In the narratives, one can observe the underlying theme of

existentialism, reflecting the struggle within a capitalist framework. The dominance of materialism and the inclination towards individualism are evident in the stories, portraying the consequences of the capitalist system's downfall. The stories emphasize the detachment of various characters from societal norms, showcasing the author's inclination towards portraying unconventional and rebellious figures. Several characters in these stories represent the struggles of the middle class, faced with economic crises, exploitation, and challenges in fulfilling basic necessities. The author's perspective is primarily realistic; portraying the harsh realities of life, yet an optimistic view emerges at times, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the bleakness. The narratives often present a vivid picture of the contradictions and complexities in the relationships between individuals and society. The profound sensibilities of the author shape the extensive horizons of his stories. The stories touch upon various subjects, conveying simplicity, social consciousness, and a compassionate outlook. These tales serve as a testament to the author's vision, where the ability to comprehend the intricate relationships between individuals and society is evident. The stories represent the socially oppressed, marginalized, and characters struggling for their existence, bringing forth their simple yet complex expressions. The author's writing reflects a blend of realism and humanism, portraying the agony of truth and, at times, offering a ray of positive realization

Banamali Biswal's stories are, in essence, a vast canvas depicting practical views of life in various forms and colors. They do not portray the triumph of any ideology but rather portray characters struggling for the fulfillment of basic necessities of life. These stories depict the ever-changing moments of human life, reactions, and actions, rather than advocating for any specific philosophy. The narrative is an extremely intimate form of human life, delving into the depths of human existence, rising and falling, striving to understand the world, making mistakes, and rectifying them. It encompasses victories and defeats, gains and losses, truth and falsehood. Its scope is vast and all-encompassing. Banamali Biswal's stories are rooted in the universal human experience. They focus on the struggle for survival and the primal need for sustenance. The author's worldview is inspired by the basic necessities of life. The stories depict characters from different backgrounds striving in their own ways to fulfill these fundamental needs. The narrative, being an integral part of human life, explores the values within the context of life philosophy. The author's perspective seems to lean towards a pragmatic humanism rather than an intellectual development beyond the intellect. The author's life philosophy is rooted in the essentials of life. Inspired by the fulfillment of basic needs, the stories attempt to explore values that different sections of society pursue in their own ways. The narrative provides an insight into the efforts of various components of a specific class striving to acquire those values. The majority of the stories reflect a sense of hopelessness, despair, and a lack of responsibility. The narratives portray characters who navigate the challenges of life solely relying on the strength of survival. The stories present an extraordinary saga of beings living in a different world, where humanity's cries for compassion are heard. The stories give importance to human efforts like never before.

Banamali Biswal's stories embody realism and ideals, both in individual and societal contexts. The first prerequisite for a vigilant, insightful, and conscious writer is to remain connected to contemporary circumstances. Life is perpetually changing, rendering any specific thoughts, reflections, or principles irrelevant for all time. In the context of the ever-evolving conditions of life, reconsideration of specific thoughts becomes crucial. This article attempts to explore the thinking behind the stories of Banamali Biswal. His thinking can be categorized into two parts: Realism and Idealism, Individualism and Socialism. He adapts fundamental ideas from the current circumstances.

The stories portray the struggles and challenges faced by individuals from marginalized and neglected sections of society. The narratives highlight the author's empathetic perspective towards the pain and suffering of such characters. The stories also employ humor and satire to depict the complexities of

life and societal problems. Through these narratives, the author explores the intricacies of human nature, personal struggles, and societal issues with a profound understanding of the human condition. The language used is simple yet expressive, capturing the essence of contemporary life and the author's compassionate view of the world. The stories cover a wide range of themes. The author's deep socio-cultural perspective is evident in these stories, where the deplorable conditions of society, the impact of superstitions, and the inhumane outlook of society are portrayed vividly. Overall, the author skillfully intertwines the socio-cultural fabric with the narrative, creating stories that not only entertain but also provide a deep insight into the human experience. The language is rich yet accessible, and the storytelling reflects a blend of modernity and tradition, making these narratives a poignant reflection of contemporary life. By addressing prevalent insecurities, complex issues, and profound contradictions in society, the author often appears to be influenced by a realistic life philosophy. The narratives showcase self-struggle and self-realization. This self-realization seems to be inspired by a blend of worldly wisdom, behavior, humanity, and the portrayal of emotions. In this regard, these stories appear to reflect the author's multidimensional thinking and active participation in various segments of society. The author has presented the necessities, hopes, expectations, sorrows, and helplessness of various characters in an experiential and empathetic manner. By self-experiencing the situations of the lower-middle-class, the author has unfolded the entire spectrum of the world in the stories.

Banamali Biswal is a straightforward, eloquent, and conscious storyteller. The collection of stories, 'Bubhuksā,' highlights all the characteristics of modern short story style. These stories reflect the continuous flow of contemporary consciousness. The characters of Bubhuksā are connected with the modern thinking of humanity. Almost all the characters in the collection, navigate through their surroundings, struggling, and encountering new challenges and elevations. The stories portray the destitute class, crushed and scattered under the weight of poverty and social inequality. It is essential for any writer to understand social behavior and depict it realistically. The stories not only present problems but also make an effort to provide subtle and empathetic solutions in an idealistic or principle-oriented way.

Theme of Middle class families:

Banamali Biswal's stories often delve into the themes related to middle-class families, providing insightful portrayals of their struggles, aspirations, and dynamics. Banamali Biswal explores the aspirations and ambitions of middle-class individuals, depicting their desire for social mobility and a better life for their families. Characters often navigate the tension between personal dreams and societal expectations, reflecting the evolving nature of middle-class aspirations. Education is a significant theme in Banamali Biswal's stories about the middle class. Parents often harbor hopes for their children to receive a good education, viewing it as a pathway to a brighter future. Characters grapple with the challenges of providing quality education while managing financial constraints. Banamali Biswal portrays the professional struggles of middle-class individuals, highlighting the pressures of maintaining a respectable status and meeting societal expectations. Characters may face dilemmas related to career choices, job stability, and the pursuit of success in a competitive environment. Middle-class families in Banamali Biswal's stories are often depicted as repositories of traditional values and cultural norms. The narratives explore the tensions arising when traditional values clash with the demands of a changing society, particularly in urban settings. Financial stability and the challenges associated with managing a household on a middle-class income are recurrent themes. Banamali Biswal portrays characters navigating economic uncertainties, balancing the desire for comfort with the constraints of their financial situation. Middle-class families navigate complex social dynamics, including interactions with neighbors, relatives, and the broader community. Banamali Biswal explores how societal expectations and judgments impact the choices and behaviors of individuals within middle-class households. Gender roles within middle-class families are often explored, depicting the expectations placed on men and women. Banamali Biswal's

narratives may highlight the evolving roles of women within middle-class households and the challenges they face in balancing traditional expectations with personal aspirations. Through these themes, Banamali Biswal provides a nuanced portrayal of middle-class life, capturing the intricacies of relationships, societal expectations, and the pursuit of a better future within the constraints of a middle-class existence.

Theme of Plight of Women:

Banamali Biswal's work often portrays the plight of women in the socio-cultural context of today's time. He delves into the challenges, restrictions, and vulnerabilities faced by women, shedding light on their struggles for autonomy and recognition. Banamali Biswal's stories reflect the deeply entrenched patriarchal norms in Indian society during the early to contemporary society. Women are often depicted as subservient to male authority figures, facing limitations in decision-making and societal expectations. He explores the social restrictions imposed on women, particularly in terms of education, career choices, and freedom of movement. Characters grapple with societal norms that confine them to traditional roles, limiting their opportunities for personal and professional growth. Banamali Biswal's narratives delve into the complexities of marital relationships, portraying instances of arranged marriages, and the impact of societal expectations on women's lives. Women characters navigate the challenges of maintaining their identity within the confines of marital structures. Many stories highlight the economic dependence of women on male family members, showcasing the vulnerability that arises from financial constraints. Characters often face dilemmas related to financial autonomy and struggle against economic disparities. Despite the hardships, Banamali Biswal's female characters exhibit resilience and occasional acts of resistance against societal norms. Some stories depict women challenging oppressive traditions and striving for personal agency. The theme of motherhood is significant in Banamali Biswal's work, with women often portrayed as self-sacrificing mothers who endure hardships for the well-being of their families. These narratives explore the societal expectations placed on women as caregivers and nurturers. Overall, Banamali Biswal's portrayal of women reflects a nuanced understanding of the challenges they faced within a patriarchal framework. Through his stories, he aimed to raise awareness about gender inequalities and advocate for social reforms that would empower women in Indian society.

Theme of Poverty:

Poverty is a central theme in many of Banamali Biswal's stories, reflecting his deep concern for the socio-economic challenges faced by the common man in contemporary society. Banamali Biswal often depicts characters grappling with extreme poverty, struggling to make ends meet in an agrarian society marked by economic disparities. The narratives explore the impact of poverty on individuals and families, portraying the harsh realities of a subsistence-based livelihood. Characters in poverty are frequently victims of exploitation, whether by landlords, moneylenders, or those in positions of power. Banamali Biswal critiques the systemic injustices that perpetuate poverty, highlighting the struggles of the underprivileged against oppressive structures. Poverty often leads to limited access to education and opportunities, trapping individuals in a cycle of deprivation. Banamali Biswal underscores the importance of education as a means to break the chains of poverty and uplift the marginalized sections of society. Characters facing poverty also deal with social stigma and prejudice. Banamali Biswal explores how societal attitudes toward the poor contribute to their marginalization. The narratives shed light on the challenges individuals face when trying to overcome poverty while dealing with societal judgment. Poverty affects family structures, leading to strained relationships, conflicts, and difficult choices. Despite the dire circumstances, Banamali Biswal's characters often retain their dignity and resilience in the face of poverty. The narratives celebrate the strength and tenacity of individuals who maintain their integrity even when confronted with extreme economic challenges. Banamali Biswal's exploration of poverty goes beyond a mere portrayal of financial hardship; it delves into the human aspects, revealing the resilience

and spirit of those living in impoverished conditions. Through his stories, he aimed to create awareness and advocate for social reforms to address the root causes of poverty in Indian society.

Theme of child issues:

Banamali Biswal's work also provides a poignant portrayal of the plight of children in the socio-economic landscape of his time. Many of Banamali Biswal's stories feature children from impoverished backgrounds, highlighting the harsh realities of economic struggles and deprivation. Characters often endure hardships, scarcity of resources, and lack of access to education, emphasizing the impact of poverty on their lives. Banamali Biswal addresses the issue of child labor, depicting children engaged in laborious tasks due to economic necessity. Characters often face exploitation in the workplace, reflecting the prevalent social and economic conditions of the time. The limited access to education for children, especially those from marginalized communities, is a recurring theme. Banamali Biswal underscores the importance of education as a means to uplift children from their circumstances and break the cycle of poverty. Family structures play a crucial role in Banamali Biswal's narratives, with children often caught in the complexities of familial relationships. Orphaned or neglected children are portrayed navigating a world where they seek love, care, and a sense of belonging. Banamali Biswal critiques social injustice through the lens of children, showcasing instances where they become victims of discriminatory practices or systemic failures. Characters grapple with the consequences of societal prejudices and the challenges of asserting their rights. Despite their challenging circumstances, children in Banamali Biswal's stories often embody innocence and resilience. The narratives highlight the strength and adaptability of children as they navigate the complexities of an adult-dominated world. Through his portrayal of children, Banamali Biswal aimed to draw attention to the pressing issues of his time, including poverty, child labor, and the need for social reforms. His stories evoke empathy and compassion, urging readers to reflect on the conditions faced by children in a society undergoing significant socio-economic changes.

Conclusion:

Banamali Biswal's stories often focus on characters facing severe economic struggles, highlighting the challenges of poverty in an agrarian society. The narratives provide vivid descriptions of the daily hardships, such as the inability to afford basic necessities, lack of resources, and constant financial insecurity. Characters from impoverished backgrounds frequently encounter exploitation from landlords, moneylenders, and those in positions of authority. Banamali Biswal critically examines the systemic injustices that perpetuate poverty, shedding light on the power dynamics that keep the underprivileged in a perpetual state of vulnerability. Poverty often leads to a lack of access to education, trapping individuals in a cycle of limited opportunities. Banamali Biswal underscores the transformative potential of education, portraying characters who aspire to break free from poverty through learning but face numerous obstacles. Characters facing poverty contend with social stigma and prejudice, reflecting societal attitudes toward economic status. Banamali Biswal explores the psychological impact of societal judgment, showing how it adds an extra layer of difficulty for individuals trying to overcome poverty. Poverty disrupts family structures, leading to strained relationships, conflicts, and difficult decisions for characters. Banamali Biswal skillfully depicts the familial bonds, exploring the resilience and solidarity within families facing economic adversity. Despite the dire circumstances, Banamali Biswal's characters often maintain their dignity and integrity in the face of poverty. The stories emphasize the human spirit's resilience, portraying individuals who, despite economic challenges, hold onto their principles and values. Banamali Biswal's nuanced exploration of poverty goes beyond surface-level portrayals, delving into the psychological, social, and familial dimensions of the experience. Through his detailed and empathetic storytelling, he provides readers with a profound understanding of the multifaceted impact of poverty on individuals and society.

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