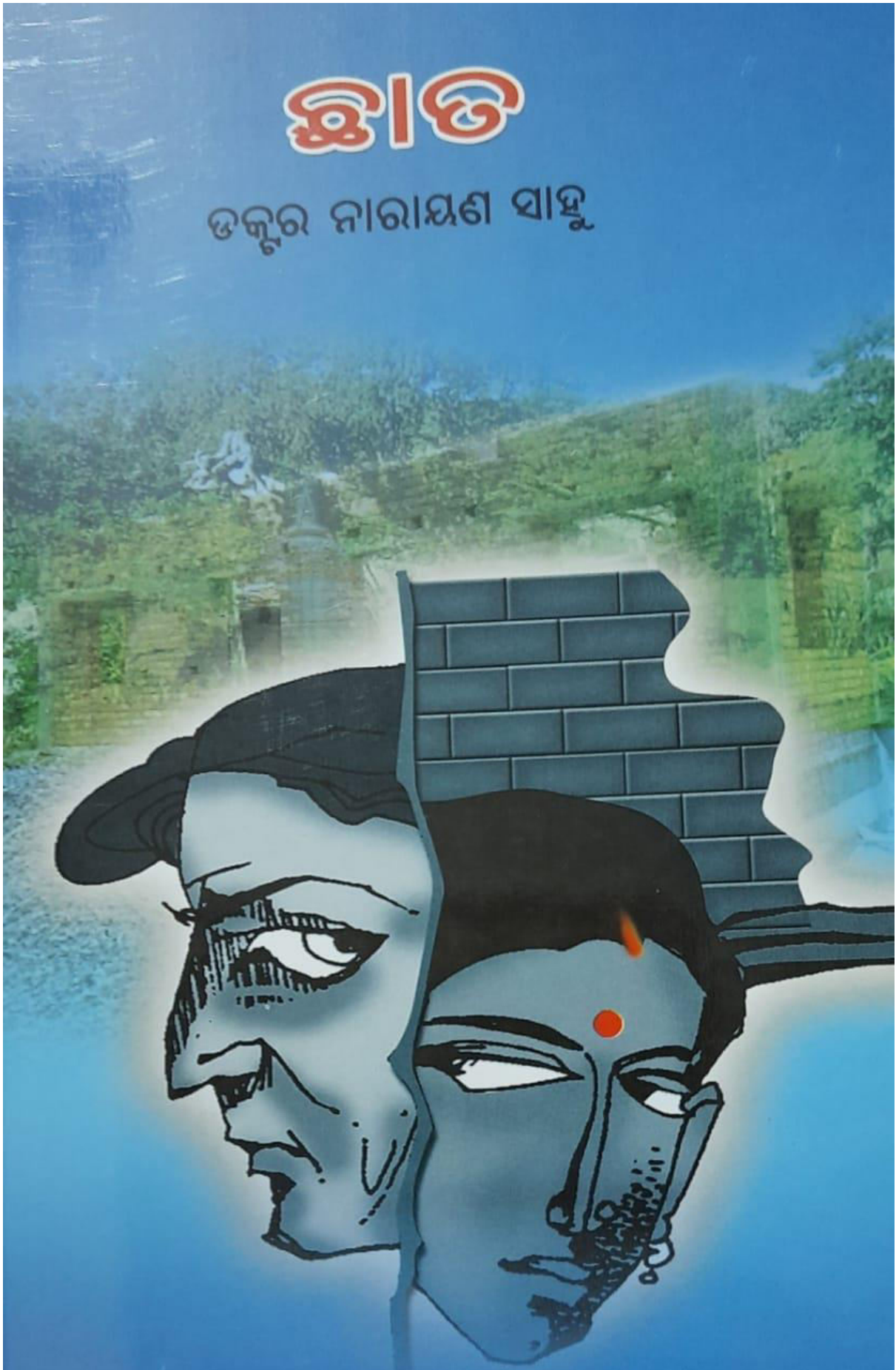


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Book Review

A Light Behind the Door

Jagannath Mohanty

Name : Chhata, Author: Dr. Narayana Sahu, Publisher: Susama Bisoi; Gyanajuga Publication, Bhubaneswar, Edition: 2020,

An ordinary life – its sharp pains and unexpected tragic play, its bursts of clarity and moments of confusion lived by an ordinary family. This is play that speaks of life as daily lived, How the youth have become so self-centered, a crowning achievement by one of the finest Indian writer at work today.

Dr. Narayan Sahu has more than thirty years of professional teaching experience in literature at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, while as a playwright and critic, he bagged several prestigious awards including Odisha Sahitya Academy Award in 1991 and Odisha Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 2014. Dr Sahu was born in 1955 at Kendrapada district in the state of Odisha and made his career as a student of literature all along. He loves stories, drama, poetry and art in all its myriad forms. He has travelled widely all over India and is a keen observer of Indian cinema, radio, television, and its journey post-independence.

The play ‘Chhata’ is a tragic story that reveals the essence of life, love and loneliness. The play is a subjective and educated response to a piece of theatre as well as society. Due to the simplicity of the prose style, and heavyhearted illustrations, vividness of imagination this simple yet insightful story is considered to be one of the greatest literary works of all times.

With his play 'Chhata', Dr. Narayan Sahu has tried to rekindle the realistic tragic stories of an era where words, feelings and relationship are shop-soiled and the play points the finger at the endless hopes and fears of modern man.

Relationship between family and society are based on the divine image and belief. In traditional homes, elderly parents live with their children and grandchildren (or in their close proximity) till their very end. As a result, they pass their last days happily, playing with their grand-children, and being served lovingly by their children whom they had raised with great effort and pain in their own younger years. In modern society however, many young couples do not want to live with their old parents.

Today, human beings are respected by their parents, even if they are poor disabled, or incompetent. Sometimes the arrogance of youth, the arrogance of selfishness, is often the result of selfishness in the old age of the parents by the selfishness son and daughter-in-law. Parental abuse does not happen just inside the home but can be in public places, further adding to the humiliation of the parents. Abuse is not only a domestic affair but can be criminal as well. There are some dynamics of unhealthy control that also play a direct part in the failure to properly elapse a life in this regard. According to the Canadian National Clearing House on family violence, the abuse generally begins with verbal abuse, but even then, some couple can be very physically abusive towards a parent, who is waif and more feeble than they are.

The play 'Chhata' is brought to life by four characters, like; Jeeban babu, his son Babu, son-in-law Babul and hilarious character, daughter-in-law Sumi. Babu has nothing against his parents and accepts the fact that they have different points of view because of generation-gap. Babu is a weak character. While respecting morality, women are governed by words. Babu does not want to move out his parent's from his house, but Sumi can't tolerate with them

anymore. Daughter-in-law Sumi has forgotten the values of the family. He felt very disgusted and it is obviously ruining her married life

Honestly, Jeeban babu can obviously compromise everything in his day to day life. Both son and daughter-in-law consider him as a white elephant. Hence, Jeeban babu is just struggling with his life, stay quiet and kept mum himself and trying to find a midway. In the gradual development of time, Babu has influenced by his wife and sent his father to an orphanage, seems to be a better option for my married life. But the next generation, son-in-law Babul has understood everything and is already awake about it and rebelled against his parent's mentality and morals.

The parents may show no remorse or guilt and feels justified in the behaviour, but many times when the couple is the one who is being abused towards his parents, they are very remorseful for being forced to defend their parents, especially when they are more aggressors. Parents examine their children's behaviour and determine if it is acceptable or if it crosses the line of abusiveness, just as a child has the responsibility as an adult who is supposed to know better should be responsible for their own abuses towards a parent. Some couple can become aggressive as a result of parental abuses and dysfunction or psychological problems. Some children may have trouble dealing with their emotions, that is all part of growing up but there is a line that should not be crossed. Unfortunately, abused parents are not afforded protections from abusive children. This practice often helps discourage abusive behaviour and show that it will not be tolerated.

He who desires prosperity should revere these superiors at all times by all means, even if he loses his life. The son should be devoted to them and make their care his first priority. Parents should prepare their children early in childhood that there will be a payback time for which they should be ready

.Violence against parents is perpetrated by both sons and daughters and across classes. Some do it for property, others because they can't take care of ailing and bed-ridden parents. The real reason for violence against the elderly is their physical inability to fight back

Dr. Narayana Sahu has critically evaluated the materialistic society and explained through a significant play 'Chhata' that Parents are an asset, not a baggage to be thrown away. Parents are invaluable and there is much to learn from them. Understanding, tolerance, generosity towards the old, shunning arguments with them, replacing anger & frustration with love and understanding are the only way to create better intergenerational relationships.

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