

ISSN: 2395-4132

# THE EXPRESSION

An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

**Bi-Monthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access e-Journal**



**Vol. 2 Issue 6 Dec. 2016**

Impact Factor 1.854

*Editor-in-Chief : Dr. Bijender Singh*

**Email : [editor@expressionjournal.com](mailto:editor@expressionjournal.com)  
[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)**

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132



## **POST MODERNIST CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE POETRY OF BIPLAB MAJUMDAR: AN EXPLORATION**

**Ram Avadh Prajapati**  
Research Scholar,  
The Department of English & MEL,  
The University of Allahabad,  
Allahabad, India

.....

### **Abstract**

Postmodernism is a kind sensational sensibility which entered the mind and activity of human beings after the Second World War. It is applied in literature, art, music, and behavior of human beings. It is remarkable for its fragmented expressions and random selection of ideas. The postmodern world have been experiencing a new society and world which is full of danger, terrorism, extreme poverty, alienation, over population, fruitlessness of love and marriage, breaking of harmonious relations, and devastation of natural environment. J.A. Cudden defines post modernism as “an eclectic approach, (by a liking for) aleatory writing, (and for) parody and pastiche.” Modernist writers were lamenting the sense of fragmentation and alienation while postmodernist writers celebrate the glory and notion of fragmentation because they have got the real sensibility of human hearts. Biplab Majumdar is one of the most promising modern poets of India. He has expressed postmodernist sensibility through his poems.

### **Key-Words**

Postmodernism, Polyvancy, Hybridity, Intertextuality, Fragmented Ideas.

.....

**Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)**

**Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh**

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132



## **POST MODERNIST CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE POETRY OF BIPLAB MAJUMDAR: AN EXPLORATION**

**Ram Avadh Prajapati**  
**Research Scholar,**  
**The Department of English & MEL,**  
**The University of Allahabad,**  
**Allahabad, India**

.....

Postmodernism is a recent phenomenon in the world literature. After 1950's we have realized and discarded the validity of the modernism. Modernism brought a new sensation and activity in the modern people. In literature modernism caused to reject traditional views of coherence and realism and in life it helped us to discard several taboos and inherent bad feelings. It provoked experiential idealism in literary imagination, art, music and even in the behavior and activity of human beings. It provoked us to write automatically. T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Wallace Stevens, Marcel Proust, Andre Gide, Frank Kafka, Rainer Maria, W. B. Yeats, Lawrence, all these and so many other writers and artists created a new cult of literature and art. So postmodernism is a kind of addition in the sensation of human feelings and it is also a kind of counter to traditional beliefs of the modernism. It tried to subvert the foundations of accepted modes of thought and experience. It enjoys what was taboo for the modernist people. It blended several genres of literature and made one sometimes incongruous.

Biplab Majumdar is a postmodernist poet living in Kolkata, India. He is an influential poet, editor, essayist, environmentalist, humanist, and pacifist of the postmodern India and world. He is a bilingual poet. He writes in English and Bengali. He is one of the strongest voices of protest and irony in this age of selfishness, chronic materialism, endemic greed, violent sensibility, regionalism, fundamentalism, and terrorism. He is a lover of nature and he has great consciousness to the society. He portrays the life and blood phenomena of the

**Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)**

**Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh**

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

world. There is manifestation of social, environmental, anthropocentric concern in his poetry. Several of his poems may be studied from environmental point of view. Most of his poems have a strong strain of postmodern sensibility. He talks about the world which “seems to lie before us”. He does not create any ideology to live in. He is affected by the real world of human beings. There is manifestation of a great sense of love and humanity and brotherhood in his poems. He has patriotic sensibility but it is not extremist notion. His poems present a true picture of the life of human beings. We are living in the world of terrorism, poverty, misery, depravation, lack of religious harmony, and communal atrocity. The poet addresses and warns us as a great orator to have a control on everything which is causing bloodshed and disharmony among us. He seems enjoying the boons of science, technology, cultural multiplicity but he is aware of the diminishing moral and cultural values in human beings. Biplab Majumdar has great affinity with S. C. Dwivedi’s art of expression and sensibility. S.C. Dwivedi is also a poet postmodern realization. He has produced several collections of poems. *The Mouth of Truth* (2014) is a collection of thirty poems by S. C. Dwivedi. He has expressed his realization about each and every aspect of postmodern world. There is patriotic strain in Dwivedi’s poetic imagination.

Biplab Majumdar’s *Golden Horizon* is a collection of haiku poems. A haiku is a Japanese form of poem. Its structure consists of three lines of 5-7-5 syllables. Haiku poems are devoted to the betterment of natural health. Biplab has a deep sense of environment, culture, society, spirituality, and modernity. His spiritual consciousness does not allow him to be showy and pompons. He has great cognizance and depth of Indian sensibility. He mystifies the time by comparing it with the flow of river water. Like a true elderly person he awakes us from our dream to work because time is fleeing and no one can check it. His post modernity has various dimensions. He says how genius and talented are not welcomed and fools and incompetent persons are being honoured by the society. People, who lack talent are enjoying the blessings of luxuries. His keen eyes observe how man has become very ungrateful while natural elements even a blade of grass is grateful to the graces offered by the sun and the God. Man is the meanest creature of God because it is selfish and haughty. It does not love to praise its own makers. Biplab very carefully realizes the enigmas of human life. He says how we become young, and parents get us married and get rid of responsibilities and become happy but it is not a total bless for us. After few days of our marriage we feel the complexities of conjugal life. According to Biplab our life is full of complexity:

Life is puzzle  
That remains unsolved ever  
Till light transcends.

(Majumdar)

The above lines are very thoughtfully discloses his wisdom and practice of social reforming

Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

nature. Like a true postmodernist he realizes the compact and crushed impact of social system. Postmodern world has several new dimensions in which true realization of life is one of them. Post modern people have total realization of the feelings which are making and which are marring. Post modern world has seen experienced the trauma of life after two world wars.

Biplab Majumdar has full realization of a poet and poet's art of composition. Poets are the true soul of the earth because they have good values through which they can make this earth a better place to love. Poets have been enlightening the world with their insight and light. He says:

Poets are worshippers  
Eternal worshippers of truth  
To enlighten world.

(Majumdar)

Biplab Majumdar wants to make this earth a place full of love, wisdom, harmony, goodness, knowledge, peace, light, harmonious religion and virtue and virtue. He warns and suggests to maintain love and peace on this earth. He feels and have a firm belief that life has sorrows but we should be champion of our beliefs. He forbids us to be overjoyed because:

Joys are like dewdrops  
They fall, evaporate; again  
A long dryness there  
The cradle of life swings  
Between two shades of darkness  
Happiness and sadness.

(Majumdar)

These lines are result of Biplab's postmodernist sensibility to understand the world. He realizes the wastefulness of our thoughts because we have not that sense to create our essential visions which will be creation of our life.

Biplab Majumdar is a true lover of natural elements like William Wordsworth, John Keats, P. B. Shelley, Robert Frost, Sumitra Nandan Pant, Suryakant Tripath 'Nirala', S.C. Dewivedi, R.C Dewivedi and Kazuyosi Ikeda Syed Ameeruddin, A. K. Chaudhery and several others. He says.

Please do not leave me  
As man/woman of this earth  
If possible, love as not use.  
Dew of love vanishes  
When the sun peeps in the sky,  
Sun of selfishness.

(Majumdar)

Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

Biplab says we cannot sustain our physical love for a long time because it depends upon the sun of selfishness. Our love should be like nature's love which has no selfishness ideas. Nature is serving human beings since the beginning of mankind. Nature has provided us water, air, soil, trees, plants, and different kinds of useful materials for the welfare of human beings. Biplab adores all these things in his poems with multifaceted realizations.

Biplab Majumdar has great realization of the life and activity of a poet. According to him poets are not made but they are born. His opinion is quite satisfactory regarding the vibration creativity. Creativity and imagination are two very significant elements of poets. Poets are born not as common people who eat, drink sleep, and just go. They are born for the betterment of humanity like Tulisidas, Kabir Das, Soor Das, Bihari, who didn't live for themselves but served society and mankind. Though most of them were not educated in the formal schools yet they had great sincerity and dedication towards life. He expresses his feelings about the features and dedication of a poet:

Poets, strange creatures  
Their hearts, most sensitive parts  
Lie outside their bodies  
Poetry transcends when  
Incomplete reality fuses with complete idealism.  
To be a poet  
I tried to be good, but  
It's so difficult.

(Majumdar)

Biplab Majumdar stresses the idea that poet's heart is very tender and moderate. They cannot resist themselves amidst injustices and disharmony. Their body and their souls revolt against society through their poetic fire:

Poet can't resist  
Inevitable blows of reality  
They bleed through verses. (Majumdar)

Like a true postmodernist poet Biplab has shown impressionism and subjectivity in his poems. He has practiced and polished his art of writing. His methods whatever he has used are quite well balanced. He has practical wisdom through which he strengthens his expression and accepts the realities of the world. He says.

Man never grows up  
Only he changes his toys  
With each spell of time  
A fruit loaded branch  
But low to ground, gratitude  
Never forgets debt. (Majumdar)

Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

He expresses natural truth through his poetry. His poems are total realization and expression of what we see, think, and observe through words in poetic form. There is prose like features in all his poems. He is postmodernist not only in forms but also in his themes. He has mixed forms and created a new form according to his own need. He practices reality in his expression and writing. There is a deep rooted reflexivity in his poetic imagination. Most of his poems are packed with his own nature, status, and role. He says;

Milk in poly pack  
Who knows when gets a leak  
Life within body.

(Majumdar)

His comparison is quite true because poly bag is not easy to leak in the same way our life is not so easy to be dismissed from our body. Biplab has chosen to show similarity with several with other things which are relevant in our life.

There is presence of intertextuality in his poems. This intertextuality is present in the form of illusion and references from great poets like William Shakespeare, Keats, Wordsworth, Kamala Das, Rabindranath Tagore, Kabir, Tulsi, and religious books like the *Gita*, the *Ramayana*, and the *Vedas* and the *Purans*.

In Biplab's poetry there is a tendency to extend empathy and sympathy. His poems are seen across boundaries of cultural and ethnic differences. His poems are pro-changers and celebrate the features of hybridity and cultural polyvalency. He develops a new perspective which is wider and larger than other poets and other intellectuals. He writes about singularity and plurality. He considers the over use of autobiographical elements as a source of energy and potential change his notions. He uses rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, assonance and onomatopoeia abundantly.

Biplab Majumdar's *Cosmic Convergence* (2014), *Golden Horizon* (2004), *island's Dolphin Song* (2009), *Virtues & Voices* (2001) and other books incorporate elements of randomness and chances. His poetry has faithfully redefined and analyzed and interpreted the elements of modernism and postmodernism. There is readiness and acceptability in his art of poetry. His poetry has all pervasive nature to compose a natural whole.

The postmodernist writers celebrate fragmentation and rejects narrative. Biplab has not created any narrative poem. All his poems are fragmentary. Sometimes he writes poems in very few words. His lines are fragmentary in the sense sometimes that there are some of his poetic lines of a single word:

A meandering  
Steam  
In  
Sunset:  
A hunter

Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

Took away  
His hunted  
Wander white  
From my  
Crimson.

(Majumdar)

Everything comes under their skeptical scrutiny of the poet. *Virtues & Vices* is a very significant collection of his poems which shows his scrutinizing eyes which observe this world which is full of problem where there neither love nor peace among people. Like a true post modernist he has employed a language which is akin to vernacular language. He shares the qualities of robust optimism, playfulness, openness, and celebration of the fragmentation. His poetic landscape is wide spread and is concerned with the problems of human existence and it is full of ingredients of post modernism.

Majumdar expresses his emotions consciously about mankind keeping in view feelings, perceptions, predispositions for harmony and goodwill in the world and among human beings. He seems appealing and convincing the readers to perform duty and be optimistic:

Perform duty, O my dear brothers  
With the beat of faith, power, devotion;  
Tomorrow's sun must be ours  
Shall be proud of glorious nation.

\* \* \*

Let us have optimistic vision  
Tomorrow's world would be unified nation,  
If the universal peace be our mission  
Let humanity alone be the global religion.

(*Virtues & Vices*)

These lines show his staunch faith in the welfare of humanity and goodness which according Majumdar must be our mission and vision to maintain peace and love on this earth. According to him moderation, responsibility, contentment, compatibility, and flexibility are very important ideals of human life.

Try to change things what you can  
Live in peace with what you can't  
Know the difference between the two  
Remember only then mature you.

(*Virtues & Vices*)

There is wistfulness is art of creative writing of Biplab Majumdar. There is a kind of

Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh



# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

fragmented expression in the form of single word verse lines. It is known as experimental practice done by postmodernist writers like Biplab Majumdar. The poem "Nirvana" is a touching. It discloses the heart of the poet:

A wounded  
Waterfall  
In  
Whispering  
Woods of  
Wistful wonder.  
Twittering twilight,  
A swirl  
Of  
Smoke  
Rises  
Up,  
Up  
And  
Towards  
The face  
of  
Buddha

(*Cosmic Convergence*: 119)

Biplab Majumdar is a realist and he does not believe in pomp and show in his poetry. Post modernism witnessed a dramatic change in thoughts and feelings of people. Biplab has creative genius to accept his art of poetic imagination. In an interview with Arbind Kumar Choudhary Biplab says:

Poetry is neither a gymnasium of words nor glacier of thought. It is the right compilation of intellect, imagery, impulse, basic grammar, and artistic presentation of thought. These are inherent elements of good poetry.

(Majumdar)

In the preface to his book; *Golden Horizon* Biplab writes:

Poetry is an art of words mirrored by the emotional escape of a poet's perceptual destruction.

(Majumdar)

Post modernist writers have done open discussion of sex and sexuality in their works. Biplab Majumdar does take sex and sexuality as a taboo. He expresses thoughtful insight and ideas regarding and parts body. In the poem "Desire" he doesn't only speak about material desire but also of sexual and erotic desires:

Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

Desire is known prime factor  
That drives a man into strife,  
Desire alone is the dearest mother  
Of anything that comes to our lives.

Desire is called the magic key  
That can open the lock of success,  
Fame and fortune can be ours  
If we have it reasonably excess.

*(Virtues & Vices: 115)*

Above lines have been studied under the influence of postmodernist outlook to clarify sexual intensity in the form of desire which is also called libido by psychologists.

Postmodernist writers have good sensibility to see and understand present scenario of life and activities prevalent in our society. Biplab talks about corruption, politics, social problems, harassment of virtues and good values. He takes hatred, anger, jealousy, pride, selfishness, violence, and so many other vices which are marring our relations. He realizes and wants to give a message to the society. "Corruption" is very significant poem to show his consistent observation of social, religious, and political vices. Human beings have gone somewhere else. In the poem entitled as "Corruption" he writes:

A man is born in this sacred land  
With a heart full of sun-lit clarity  
Like a river with the flow of time  
He losses goodness and inner divinity.

*(Virtues & Vices: 114)*

Wordsworth has regarded a child as "father of man". This regard is not as what we see today about father. Biplab has presented a very thoughtful and original idea how we are born with divine spirit but we loss it day by day after our birth because the world is so corrupt and dehumanized. We start giving up our virtues as we start growing. The world is full of passions, immoral activities, corruption, enmity, anomaly, allurements which become causes of our unhappy mansion. The realization is very significant to note how man transfers his attention from goodness to evil and morality to immorality as he grows in his life and in the corrupt society. Biplab writes:

Corruption drives one to dark downstairs  
Causes spoiling his sanctity of soul,  
Not only he gets deprived of peace  
But destroys his world as a whole.

Corruption exhausts vigour of society

Vol. 2 Issue 6 (December 2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

Hits a nation below the belt,  
Silently damages the very root of integrity  
The enemy should be ever strictly dealt.

*(Virtues & Vices: 115)*

Biplab Majumdar is a true post modernist writer. He has a vice of angst. He does not like to accept as it is. He creates a vision about everything to what it should be. He has a vice of inspiration through which he wants to make this world in which we can survive. Biplab warns us not to exceed our moral values. He says we should do good activities through which we can make this earth a better place. He says we should be tolerant and always try to adjust everywhere in every kind of situation. He suggests us to be strong. He has didactic voice. He does not have hesitation to instruct us. He writes:

Accept life as a precious gift  
From the hand of supreme power  
You can achieve a great wonder  
Love your life, have an affair.

Human life is a long journey  
From ignorance to Eternal light,  
Against hatred, anger, greed  
Life should keep on constant fight.

*(Virtues & Vices: 9)*

Biplab Majumdar is a poet of practical wisdom. He has visionary notions to maintain love, peace, harmony, religion, brotherhood, and universal freedom for all human beings. He is a postmodernist by heart, mind, soul, and energy. We must enjoy our days and nights with his poetic imagination. He is free from fundamentalism, regionalism, and corruption.

# The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

## Bibliography

- Barry, Peter. (Postmodernism). *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary Theory*. Manchester, U K: Manchester University Press. 2009. Print.
- Abrams, M. H & Geoffrey Galt Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Delhi: Cengage Learning. 2012. Print.
- Das, Manoranjan. *Biplab Majumdar: A Critical Analysis and Evaluation of His Poetry*. Kolkata: The Future Publication, 2009. Print.
- Iyenger, Srinivas. K. R. *Indian Writing in English*. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1962. Print.
- Majumdar, Biplab. *Golden Horizon*. Kolkata: International Poetry Society of Kolkata, 2004.
- Majumdar, Biplab. *Island's Dolphin Song*. Kolkata: International Poetry Society of Kolkata, 2009. Print.
- Majumdar, Biplab. *Virtues & Voices*. Kolkata: Mainstream Publication, 2001. Print.
- Majumdar, Biplab. *Cosmic Convergence*. Kolkata: International Poetry Society of Kolkata, 2014. Print.
- Dwivedi, S. C., *The Mouth of Truth*. Bareilly: Prakash Book Depot, 2013. Print.
- Ramesh Chandra Dwivedi, *Shafts of Sunlight*; Priya Literary Book Publishers. New Delhi, 2006. Print.
- Dwivedi, R. C. *Written Words*. Kolkata poetry Publication; Kolkata. 2009. Print.
- Dwivedi, R. C. *Bharat Mata Gramwashini*. Natural books. 2010. Print.
- Dwivedi, R. C. *The Melodies of Mother Earth*. Academic Publications: Delhi. 2014. Print.