

## **A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SIXTEENTH CENTURY LITERATURE IN THE MODERN WORLD**

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**“We know what we are but know not what we may  
be – Hamlet.”**

**Introduction:** The sixteenth century literature and drama was rich in the usage of words. It had some of the best writers like William Shakespeare, John Milton and Christopher Marlowe. They contributed with a valuable collection of literary works and poetry to the field of education. This body of literary work captivates the interests of the learners. Three centuries have passed but the dignity and grandeur of these dramas, literary works and poetry has not faded away. It plays a deep role in the enhancement of the historical side of the era. The educational development is profound due to the expansion of the all- round knowledge and integrated subject matter. The poetic use of literature expands the vocabulary of the learners. The similar learning experiences can be represented in various other modern life situations, thereby increasing the life-skills through the knowledge of literature. It enhances the moral lessons that the youth derive from the literature and drama of the sixteenth century.

**Background:** The literature and drama was created in a setting of the current issues of that era. It therefore increased awareness about the development of political aspects. The cultural beliefs were also brought to the notice of the general public. It enabled the commoners to think logically and make their own beliefs stronger or discard things not acceptable to them. It helped bring about the change in notions that were unacceptable. The dialects and usage of the linguistics that were dominant at that time was brought out through the literature of the past. The geographical differences, regional practices and the social scenario were also considered through these dramas.

**Objectives:**

- To identify the present status of the sixteenth century literature in the modern era.
- To analyze the different aspects of education the sixteenth century literature offered to education.
- To examine the benefits of the inclusion of sixteenth century literature in the present curriculum of the Bachelor of Arts students.

**Research Question:** What are the present benefits that the learners derive from the study of the sixteenth century literature?

**Method and sampling**

- Survey method through random sampling of 100 students
- Semi-structured interview of 100 learners and teachers of the sixteenth century literature.

**Data Collection process:** The researcher had a discussion with the senior professors, scholars and other researchers and experts of the validity and reliability of the subject matter.

The researcher created a semi-structured questionnaire containing twenty questions like:

What they (the learner, readers, audience and the teachers) like to imply in their own lives from the sixteenth century literature?

What they have learnt through the study of the sixteenth century literature?

What are the aspects that are followed even in the modern era which have come from the sixteenth century literature?

What are the systems that have been followed and adapted in today's teaching-learning scenario from the sixteenth century literature?

**Data Analysis process:** The researcher analyzed the data using percentage and average.

### **The benefits derived from the sixteenth century.**

•**Fluency, Reading skills, Language and connotation usage.(Romeo and Juliet) and (Hamlet).**The phrases, proverbs and usage is carried on till today and is widely used in common situations.

•**Moral lessons, (Julius Caesar), (Macbeth) and (Much ado About Nothing).**The values and positive implementation of good lessons are used from these plays.

•**Logical thinking. (Merchant of Venice).**The study of this work of literature helps us to think logically and defend ourselves.

•**Gives insights about the love they showed towards their partner.**

(Romeo and Juliet),(A Midsummers night's dream) and (Much ado about Nothing). Even today the general people use the same techniques and have similar emotions.

•**Political aspects-Especially the Magna -Carta. (Macbeth)-(Merchant of Venice), (Julius Caesar) and (Hamlet).** In the modern world we still follow the foundations laid by that era. To some extent we even implement those methods and techniques in our everyday life.

•**Cultural Beliefs. (Macbeth), (Merchant of Venice).** Some people learnt from the past and changed their attitude. Some were inspired by it and followed it even more. It also laid the basis of the modern day beliefs to a great extent.

•**Jesters and street performers.** (All the Sixteenth Century Plays).This encouraged the local audience. The use of colloquial language enables us to understand today how they used to converse. It paved the way for the modern day drama and improvising on the requirements of fine arts.

•**Religious values** (John Milton's paradise Lost) .This kind of epic poems is of high learning and moral values even in the modern age.

•**Social aspects.** We realize the flexibility that has taken place in the society norms over the passing of time. The plays had themes which show rational thinking of their own beliefs. The plays often show the short-comings of "heroic folk legends" which gives the modern world an opportunity for improvement.

•**Prejudices.** There has been an awakening of and enlightenment of the modern age due to the sixteenth century drama and literature. Prejudices have been removed. The writings in the literature have influenced the attitude of the people.

eg: "Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice". Jane Bronte's writings.

### **Results and findings:**

- The drama and literature of the sixteenth century can be referred to even today in our modern world.
- It has shaped our present.
- The aspects which were of interest and productive to the individuals in modern age were imitated, followed and adopted.
- There was a lot of improvement in the aspects that the general public did not approve of.
- People learnt from examples of the sixteenth century drama and literature since the themes were relatable to general public.
- People developed upon aspects that they did not feel appropriate.
- It gave ample situations and examples to deeper further studies of psychology, sociology, and moral studies.

### **Conclusions:**

On basis of the survey conducted, it gives the conclusion about the importance and worth of the sixteenth century literature in today's modern world. With the enhancement of technology and development of techniques, the sixteenth century literature is still of great value.

The literature still has a positive influence on the society even today. Sixteenth century literature was instrumental in what the modern society is today. It always provided rich themes and deep meanings with moral and value teachings that can be followed even today. It provides deeper understanding of human tendency in order to find solutions for general problems.

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### **Abstract:**

This research paper stresses upon the relationship of the sixteenth century literature and drama with the contrasting modern situation. The modern world is overflowing with technology and speed. Everything reaches us fast, results are swifter than they have ever been before. Everything is available with a click of a button. In the contrast of that, why is the Sixteenth century literature and drama included in the curriculum? (Modern curriculum). How does it benefit the learners of today? What are the aspects that people hold on to, of the literature of the past? In the matter of literature we use it as a paved pathway and build upon it and improve today's elements. It is a guiding light in many diverse subjects. The drama and literature of the sixteenth century is never discarded. It shows richness of language and development of vocabulary. It is legendary, never growing out- dated, and is evergreen.

**Keywords: Literature; drama; sixteenth century; influence.**

## الملخص:

تؤكد هذه الورقة البحثية على علاقة الأدب والدراما في القرن السادس عشر بالوضع الحديث المتناقض، العالم الحديث يفيض بالتكنولوجيا والسرعة، كل شيء يصل إلينا بسرعة ، والنتائج أسرع من أي وقت مضى. كل شيء متاح بنقرة زر واحدة. على النقيض من ذلك ، لماذا يتم تضمين الأدب والدراما في القرن السادس عشر في المناهج الدراسية؟ (منهج حديث)، كيف يفيد متعلمي اليوم؟ ما هي الجوانب التي يحتفظ بها الناس من أدب الماضي؟ فموضوع الأدب نستخدمه كطريق معبد ونبني عليه ونحسن عناصر اليوم. إنه ضوء توجيه في العديد من الموضوعات المتنوعة، لا يتم تجاهل الدراما والأدب في القرن السادس عشر، هذا يظهر ثراء اللغة وتطور المفردات. إنه أسطوري ، لا ينمو أبدًا ، وهو دائم الخضرة.

**كلمات مفتاحية:** أدب، دراما، القرن السادس عشر، تأثير.