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**Natioalism in *Anandamath* by Bankim Chandra Chatterji****Dr. Alpa Pragnesh Jani**

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**Abstract:**

The world is growing vastly but anyhow we are missing the essence our existence. If anyone observe today's scenario, definitely can see the degradation of human values. India is a country, where unity in diversity is core element. After a long strive, We, Indian achieved the freedom from the slavery of the British people. Many leaders gave their lives to get freedom of our motherland India. During the freedom struggle of India, many revolutionary people made Indian aware for the importance of freedom. Same efforts were expressed by Bankim Chandra Chatterji. The present study is to analyze the feeling of nationalism expressed by Bankim Chandra Chatterji in *Anandamath*. Bankim Chandra narrated *Anandamath* 'as temple of Goddess in India. Bankim Chandra nicely narrated feeling of motherland through the entire novel.

**Key Words:** Nationalism, Motherland, Human, Bande Matram

**Introduction:**

The present study is to analyze the feeling of nationalism expressed by Bankim Chandra Chatterji in *Anandamath*. The feeling for motherland is nicely narrated by Bankim Chandra Chatterji (1838-94) in his political novel '*Anandamath*' (1882). It is a historical novel which provided tremendous spirit of nationalism during the freedom struggle of India. Our national song *Bande Mataram* – Hail Motherland was first published in this novel. The

complete novel is based on the Sanyasi rebellion during the 18th century. Sanyasi fought against the British, considered them as enemy of their motherland and regarded the British Empire as responsible factor for the famine of 1772. Bankim Chandra narrated *Anandamath* 'as temple of Goddess in India. The novel *Anandamath* is located in dark, deep forest. Mahatma Satya is the master of *Anandamath*. *Sanyasi* means the *children* 'who are fighting against the

British Empire. They tried to evoke the feeling of nationalism in people of the time to get rid from the foreign rulers.

Mahendra and Kalyani is a couple who had a daughter named as \_Sukumari. Due to Starvation the three were leaving their ancestral home Padachina. On their way, they got separated. Any how Kalyani and Sukumari met Satya. Mahatma Satya took them in Anandamath; Bankim Chandra narrated \_Anandamath 'the temple of Goddess India in very attractive lines,

In this jungle there stood an old structure, Surrounded by broken walls. Archaeologists could easily detect that it has first been a Budalist Vibara, then a Hindu temple and them a Mohammedan mosque. (Chatterji 39)

Even Satya gave shelter to Kalyani and Sukumari in Anandamath by saying, —This is the temple, the mosque, the vibara and the gurdwara of Mother India. Cast aside all fear from your Hears.|| (Chatterji 39)

Satya told Bhavan to search Mahendra. Bhavan searched for Mahendra and intimated him about Kalyani and Sukumari. While going on the way Mahendra heard the song \_BandeMataram and he asked about it to Bhavan. Bhavan replied,

—We recognize no other mother.

Bhavan said with feeling,

The Motherland is our only mother. Our mother is higher than heaven. Mother India is our mother. We have no other mother. We have no father, no brother, no sister, no wife, no children, no home, no health – all we have is the mother.(Chatterji 49)

Bhavan introduced Mahendra with Mahatma Satya. Satya took him to three different rooms. The first room which was glowing like a diamond and it was a living map of India. Satya explains,

—This is our Mother India as she was before the British conquest|| Mahatma said to Mahendra, now say \_Band Mataram' Mahatma took him to second room which was gloomy, pale and there are rays on the map of India Satya explains.

—This is what our Mother India is today, Mahatma continued. She is in the gloom of famine, disease, death, humiliation and distraction.

Mahatma took him to the third room which was radiating from the map a golden India. Satya explains,

—This is our Mother as she is destined to be.|| (Chatterji 55-56)

Mahatma every time chanted \_BandeMataram' to generate the feeling of nationalism in Mahendra but he denied being Sanyasi,

Meanwhile Kalyani's daughter swallowed poison pill. Kalyani also swallowed poison pill because of Mahendra's decision for not being \_Sanyasi'. She faintly said to Mahendra, Faithfully with all your body, mind and soul, you must now serve

Mother India. Fight for India's freedom with all the furies at your command. This is your path of duty – your dharma solely through this path salvation awaits you. And in Fullness of time, land by virtue of your noble and unselfish deeds, we shall meet again in that kingdom oh height, lend live there together till eternity. (Chatterji 63)

Tears came from Mahendra's eyes and he became ready to serve for motherland. Meanwhile Mahendra and Satya were arrested by the British Empire. They were together in prison land singing –BandeMataram||. Jiban was the right hand of Satya. He took promise that he would be Sanyasi till he had done with his duty. Jiban saves the life of Sukumari: Mahendra came to know that Kalyani is also alive.

The famine ends and the children slowly start to gain strength when the British under the command of Captain Thomas, attacked the children. Bhavan dies in the battle but the British once again formed a plan against the children under the supervision of Major Edwards. Jiban fought like a super Warrior in the battle but eventually lost his life. Shanti, wife of Jiban, comes to know about Jiban's death but Satya emerges, heals him and disappears. Shanti and Jiban unite with each other and leaves the place chanting 'BandeMataram.' Later Shanti speaks about the importance of our lives for serving motherland. We can experience the pathos of Bhavan for Motherland when he tells to Mahendra,

Mahendra Singh, I have always looked upon you as a heroic man. Now I see you are just like any other habitual gourmand. Look here, Mahendra Singh, the serpent crawls on its breast in order to move about. It is the lowest of animals in creation. And yes, if you tread on a snake it raises its head to bites you. But

nothing can disturb your criminal composure can you find another country on earth outside India where human being we forced by starvation to live on grass? Here in India famine. Stricken people today are eating in creepers, anti – hills, jackals, dogs and even human flesh. And the British are shipping our wealth to their treasuries in Calcutta: and from there that wealth is to be shipped again to England. There is no hope for India until we drive the British out. Only then will the Motherland live again. (Chatterji 52)

At the end, Shanti gave nationalistic expressions,

You have forfeited all your right to do that. For you did sacrifice in your life in the Mother's service. If you can serve her again, then where is the atonements? The outstanding part of the atonement is to serve the Mother otherwise life is not a great thing in itself. (Chatterji 167)

At the end Mahendra, Kalyani and Sukumari went back to Padachina happily. The entire novel puts forward vision of Bankim Chandra's Hindu nationalism.

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