

PREFACE

In the present study, an attempt has been made to highlight the concept of humanism in Śaṅkaradeva's life and literature. I always found a deep interest in the study about the ideology of humanism of Śaṅkaradeva's life as well as in works. I had an opportunity of studying about Śaṅkaradeva's life in the course work (1st Semester) of Ph.D. programme at Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya (MSSV). Nagaon. After finishing my course work, I choose a topic by consulting my guide and faculty members for Ph.D. thesis. Then I thought, the reflection of humanism of Śaṅkaradeva's life would be an appropriate and inquisitive topic for Ph.D. which nobody had been study before. So, I have selected a topic for my Ph.D. thesis; that is, **“Humanism as Reflected in the Life and Literature of Śaṅkaradeva: A Critical Study”**.

Śaṅkaradeva was the man who adorned the societal life of Assam as a whole in exact shape. He opened the search for innovation in all aspects, e.g. language, literature, religion, song, dance, music, fine-arts etc. He did not stop by contributing insights to the philosophical matters, but simultaneously he raised the aesthetic sense of people by applying the philosophy in practical life. He constructed the bridge of unity and solidarity through social mobilisation and reform. He endeavoured to achieve his goal by transcending all odds through his endless labour. For his versatile talent and attractive personality he was able to attract the people of the society. He used to find peace in recognising sacrifice and meditation as the ideology of life. As a scholarly character, Śaṅkaradeva unblocked the avenues for new notions by creating literature with his own perception. By utilising the traditional elements of art and culture he exhibited his respect for all communities.

Śaṅkaradeva gave more importance on humanitarian values. In the religion proliferated by him, he released the rights open to people of all classes irrespective of caste and religion. By giving equal status as man he conveyed an equal respect to women. In his view all creatures including man are the creation of the Almighty. Therefore, he had urged for treating all as God. Humanism and humanitarianism are the main driving force in Śaṅkaradeva's life. The current research-work is an attempt to establish the humanism of Śaṅkaradeva as spiritual humanism. With the religious sensibility he expressed humanism through his literature, culture and life. He sermonised religion by taking *Eka Śaraṇa* philosophy as the prime base. So, he erected the foundation of humanism by himself standing within the periphery of religious code of belief.

The report of the present research has been divided into seven chapters. I have put forward the Bhakti Movement in Medieval India and role of Śaṅkaradeva in a nutshell, significance of the study, Research problem, objectives of the study, hypothesis and research methodology in the introductory chapter. The second chapter is specified for the review of related literature of the topic. The Third chapter contains the analysis of the different aspects regarding Śaṅkaradeva's variegated life and literature. In the fourth chapter the concept of humanism, origin and development of humanism in the different countries have been analysed. Chapter five deals with an analysis and interpretation of ideology of humanism in Śaṅkaradeva's individual as well as social life. The reflection of humanism as well as humanity in literature of sankaradeva is presented in the six chapter. The last chapter is nomenclatured by discussion and conclusion in which the sailent findings and social significance of the research topic have been analysed. At last I have included a list of bibliography in the thesis.

I have try to collect data from original and optional sources from various books and articles published in different journals to make the present study a fruitful one. APA (American Phycological Association) style is used in my thesis. I hope the information provided in this thesis will pave the way for future research activities in the domain.

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