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History of Literature in the Princely State of Cooch Behar

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Abstract:

Cooch Behar is now a district of West Bengal. But in ancient and medieval period it was the centre of political gravity under the Khen rulers of Kamatapur and the Maharajas of Cooch Behar State. The Maharajas of Cooch Behar State were the great patrons of education and literature. The Cooch rule occupied a unique place in the annals of Bengali literature. The Cooch Behar State was characterized by all round efflorescence of literature in its different branches. The royal court of Cooch Behar State became a great centre of learning. The ideal which was followed by the Cooch rulers to preach the literature, culture and religious manners to the common people that is rare in other places in India. The new era in the field of language, education and culture which commenced during the reign of Maharaja Naranarayan was continued till to the end of the Cooch rule. The kings, the members of the royal family, even the queens, the princess, the daughter- in- laws of the Kings and many other women of the Cooch Behar town voted themselves in the cultivation of literature. The Cooch rule is considerably glorious in the field of the historical writings, legends, poetic dramas and other literatures. A large number of old books were translated in assistance and encouragement of the kings or the royal family. Along with the religious literature, secular literature also developed in the Cooch Behar State. Among the secular literatures, historical literatures are significant in number.

Keywords: Khen, Kamatapur, Legend, Efflorescence, Literature, Maharaja, Secular etc.

Introduction:

The Princely State of Cooch Behar emerged in the early part of the 16th century. From the time immemorial Cooch Behar has been a part of Indian culture. Before the rise of the Cooch rulers, Cooch Behar witnessed a political crisis and in the beginning of the 16th century, a tribal leader Haria Mandal organized his own clan and sowed the seed of future Cooch dynasty. Biswasingha, the able son and successor of Haria Mandal ascended the throne of the Cooch kingdom in 1515 A.D. From the reign of Biswasingha the Cooch kingdom emerged as one of the mighty kingdom in the

political map of India. After his death, his son Naranarayan ascended the throne in 1540 A.D. The Cooch kingdom reached its zenith under Maharaja Naranarayan and maintained its independent and sovereign status up to 1772 A.D. For liberation and safety from the Bhutanese incursions, Cooch Behar State was turned into a tributary state under the British Indian government on the basis of an Agreement signed in 1773 A.D. From then onwards, Cooch Behar State became friend with British East India Company till 15th August, 1947. Though India got its independence from the British rule, Cooch Behar State remained as a tributary state till 28th August 1948. The Cooch Behar State merged in to Indian Union on 12th September, 1949 (Das-1). Thereafter it is regarded as a district of West Bengal since 1st January, 1950 (Roy Burma Hemanta Kumar-189).

The history of Cooch Behar has a unique past and characteristically differs from other regions of West Bengal. The Maharajas of Cooch Behar were the great patrons of education and literature. As a result of the earnest efforts of the Kings, the royal court of the state became a great centre of Bengali literature. There were three streams in the cultivation of literature during the Cooch rule. These are: 1) A series of literary activities by the direct or indirect favour of the kings, queens or the other members of the royal family ; 2) the stream of literary endeavour of the kings ,queens or the other member of the royal family and 3) the stream of the literary activities of some eminent litterateurs or writers in the royal court or in other places of the Cooch Behar State.

During the reign of the Maharajas of Cooch Behar State, a large number of chronicles, annals, legends, dramas, poetic-dramas were composed by various renowned personalities. The Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas were translated in the state. Both the religious and secular literature developed in the Cooch Behar State. In all there was a considerable progress in the field of literature at that time.

The cultivation of different type of literature:

We have found that different kind of literature which was composed by many personalities both in the royal court and royal family and in different places of the state. The mentionable types of literature which cultivated at that time are the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the literature of Vaishnava, Assamese, Sanskrit etc. The cultivation of literary works has started in translating of the Puranas from the beginning of the Cooch rule. But all sections of the Puranas were not translated during the period. The Ramayana of Valmiki was translated in different languages. Along with the Bengali literature, the Sanskrit literature was also developed at the same time. But it is a matter of fact that there are many evidences of the cultivation of Bengali literature by the royal family but we have not found any instances of their writing in Sanskrit language.

At that time Sankar Dev's Vaishnavism was established with great respect. Sankar Dev and his disciples irritated the ideals and thinking of Vaishnavism in their different books. Sankar Dev was the creator of new era of Vaisnavism, literature and culture. In Assam Sankar Dev had cultivated the literature. later on he settled in Cooch Behar State during the reign of Maharaja Naranarayan. At that time he composed many texts, dramas, songs etc. He had translated some books also. The 'Bhagavata' composed by Sankar Dev is till preserved in Madhupur Dham in Cooch Behar with great care and respect. The writings of Sankar Dev and the contemporary Assamese poets are also preserved in different Satras and other places in Cooch Behar.

Literary activities during the reign of Maharaja Biswasingha :

The founder of the Cooch dynasty Maharaja Biswasingha was a great patron of education. He patronized the poet and litterateur. Many of them had received the status of royal poet. Among them Pitambar Das was the great. His valuable writings are : 'Usha Parinaya', 'Bhagabata Dasam Skanda', 'Markendeya Chandi', and 'Nal-Damayanti'. Pitambar had written the poetic work 'Ushaparinaya' in 1533 A.D. by the patronage of Maharaja Biswasingha.

The main theme of this poetic work is the matrimonial relation of Usha and Anirudhha, the hero and heroine in 'Ushaparinaya'. Usha was the princess of king Bana and Aniruddha, the nephew of Lord Sri Krishna(Adhikary -2). Pitambar had described the pain of Usha's estrangement in such a way that is absolutely excellent. The following lines from 'Ushaparinaya' (The Journal Of the Historical and Cultural Review, vol-4 no-1 & 2, 2013.p.2) may be mentioned in this regard, The lines are :

*“Dekhia Kumari Guni Mane Mane
Dhannya Nari purush bilap kare bane.
Hena Samay jar kole nahi Pati,
Akarane Paran dhare hena se jubati .
Basanta Samaye Jar kole nahi Pati
Kalsi Bhangia jale maruk jubaty” .*

Free translation:

“To see the maiden reckoned in her mind,
Thanks! men and women lament in forest.
At this time whose husband is absent at her lap,
The life is meaningless of the young women.
Whose husband is absent in the Spring,
That young women should die in water by breaking the jar”.

It is said that one son of Maharaja Biswasingha whose name or different name Samar Singha was a great patron of poets. In accordance with an order of Samar Singha, poet Pitamber had translated the 'Bhagabata' (Section-10) and 'Markendeya

Purana'(Adhikary-3).ⁱ His greatest achievement was the composition of 'Nal-Damayanti.'

Mankar was another famous poet who had received the patronage of the royal court during the reign of Maharaja Biswasingha. He had written the 'Padmapurana' or cult poetry on goddess Manasa. But we have not yet found it in full form. Another renowned poet of this time was Durgabar Kaystha. After poet Madhav Kandali, the famous personalities who took part important role in the composition of the episode of the Ramayana, Durgabar was the notable poet among them. The two most significant poetry works of Durgabar are 'Geeti Ramayana' and 'Manasa Mahatma'. The 'Manasa Mahatma' is also known as 'Beula Upakhyan'. Satyendra Nath Sharma in his book "A Socio- Economic and Cultural History of Medieval Assam (1200-1800 A.D.)" mentioned about poet Durgabar that "Durgabar , a famous Manasa poet of the early 16th Century also gives a description of Chandradhara hara's merchandise and reverine trade beyond the boundaries of the native land"(Adhikary-3).

During the reign of Maharaja Biswasingha, 'Yoginitantra' was composed in Sanskrit language. But it is unknown to us who was the composer of this Sanskrit text. But it is undoubtedly true that it was composed during the time of Biswasingha. Dr. D. Nath in his 'History of the Koch Kingdom' mentioned that "Biswasingha was a patron of education and literature. As we have elsewhere pointed out, the famous Tantrik work 'Yoginitantra' might have been composed during his time"(Adhikary-7). In 'Yoginitantra' there is a vivid description about the mystery of birth and the accession of Biswasingha on the throne of Cooch Kingdom. Though Biswasingha was not concerned with the cultivation of literature, he enthused the poet and composer in his kingdom.

The reign of Maharaja Naranarayan:

The cultivation of literature was extensively expanded during the reign of Maharaja Naranarayan. A large number of literatures were composed by the patronage of Maharaja Naranarayan. He was known as the 'Vikramaditya of Kamarupa'. Many renowned poets and litterateurs adorned his royal court. In his reign influenced by Sankar Dev, the Assamese Vaishnava priest, the ideal of the doctrine of devotion preached in the form of various types of writings.

Maharaja Naranarayan composed the famous "Malla Devi Abhidhan"(Pal-149). But we have not found any evidence of literature composed by Naranarayan. In reply of the seven couple of verse of Sarnkar Dev, Naranarayan composed eight couple of verbal verse (Ahmed-123). Maharaja Naranarayan wrote some letters to the contemporary Ahom king Suklen Munga which are very significant in the history of Bengali literature. The introduction of the Bengali written language has been found in these letters. These are the first letters in Bengali prose literature (Roy Burma

Hemanta Kumar-121). These letters are valuable not only as the evidence of original prose literature, but also important as letter literature.

During the reign of Maharaja Naranarayan, Sarvabhoma Bhattacharya and Kalap Chandra translated, 'Vabishya Purana' and 'Bhagavata Purana' (Fourth and Sixth Parva). At that time Srimanta Sankar Dev was one of the mentionable translator of 'Bhagavata Purana'. He also composed some famous legend. These are 'Balichhalan', 'Harischandra Upakhayan', 'Kuruksheetra' etc. . At the request of Naranarayan, Sankar Deva composed the substance of 'Bhagavata Purana' and the biography of Srikrishna which resulted in the composition of 'Gunamala'. Besides these he had written some dramas like 'Rukshmiharan', 'Kaliyadaman' 'Keli-Gopal', 'Parijat Haran', 'Shree Rama Vijaya' etc(Majumder-108). He also composed the Vaishnava poetic drama 'Vargeet' and 'Vatima'. Sankar Deva had translated partly or fully some episode of the Mahabharata like 'Adi Parva', ' Sabha Parva ', 'Vana Parva', etc. Some legends were composed by Sankar Dev like 'Jatasur Vadh', 'Panchali Vivaha', 'Bagasur Vadh', 'Pushpaharan' etc.

Ananta Kandali, the court poet of Maharaja Naranarayan had written some books which were not fully completed. These are 'Bhagabata' (Dasam skanda), ' Rajsuya' of Mahabharata. The other litterateurs of the contemporary period were poet Kangsari, Ratnakar Kandali, Shree Dhar kandali, Bukul Kayastha and others. Kangsari was the translator of 'Kirata Parva' and 'Virata Parva'(partly) of the Mahabharata'(Paschimbanga-158). The great literaray work of Peetambar Sidhhantabagis is 'Kaumudi'. Shree Dhar Daibagga wrote a text named 'Jyotish'. Bakul Kayastha wrote " Bhumi Purnima' and he was the translator of 'Leelavati'. Sukladwaj who was better known as 'Chila Roy', the military chief and brother of Naranarayan was a learned personality and he annotated 'Saravati' on 'Geet Govinda' of Joydev and on Sanskrit language. Another renowned person whose title was 'Kanthabhusan' was the Preceptor of Maharaja Naranarayan(Ahmed-132).

We have found some secular literature during the time of Maharaja Naranarayan such as arithmetic, astrology etc(Roy Dr. Jaydip-36). Bakul Kayastha had composed 'Kitabat Manjari' on arithmetic and Shree Dhar had written 'Sandhyakanda' an astrology(Roy Dr. Jaydip-36).

The reign of Maharaja Laxminarayan:

The Stream of the cultivation of literature continued during the reign of Maharaja Laxminarayan. Among the litterateurs of this period Madhav Dev, disciple of Sankar Dev is mentionable. He had written two legends namely- 'Ramayana' (Adi Khanda) and 'Rajasuya'. His two theological writings are 'Janmarahashya' and 'Bhaktiratnabali'. The best writing of Madhav Dev is 'Namghosha'. The other personalities who were concerned with the literary activities were Bhatta Dev, Gopal Mishra, Ramcharan Thakur, Govinda Mishra, Biprabisharad and others.

Bhatta Deva was the creator of prose-literature. He had written 'Katha Geeta' or 'Krishna Geeta' with the help of Gobinda Mishra. Biprabisharad was the court poet of Laxminarayan. He had translated 'Virat Parva' of the Mahabharata. Purusottam Thakur composed 'Nabaghosha' and 'Santasar'. The famous literature of Gopal Mishra is 'Ghosha Ratna'.

The reign of Maharaja Prannarayan :

The reign of Maharaja Prannarayan (1632-1665 A.D.) is a memorable chapter in the literary activities in Cooch Behar State. Like his forefathers he was a great patron of education, literature and culture. He had a vast knowledge in Sanskrit and grammar. There is an assembly of intelligent personalities in the royal court of Maharaja Prannarayan which was known as 'Pancharatna'.

The chief jewel of the 'Pancharatna' was most probably Srinath Brahman. He had written the 'Adi Parva' and 'Drona Parva' of the Mahabharata at the request of the king. One of the important court history was 'Biswa Singha Charitam'. Its original manuscript was not found. Khan Chowdhury Amanatullah Ahmed assumed that Srinath, the court poet of Maharaja Prannarayan could have been written the book. Rama Roy had written 'Gurulila' with the help of 'Damodarcharitam' . Being fascinated by the wisdom of the king, Poet Jagannath of Maharastra had composed 'Pranavaranam' which is an excellent literature. Joykrishna Bhattacharya had written 'Prava Prabeshika' an annotation on 'Proyogratnamala', a grammatical work.

The reign of Maharaja Modnarayan :

The poets and litterateurs had received the patronage of Maharaja Modnarayan. In his reign Dvija Kabiraj had translated the 'Drona Parva (Partly) and 'Vishma Parva' of the Mahabharata. It is said that at the advice of the king, poet Jadumani wrote a legend entitled 'Subarno Ghotaki'. Dvija Kabiraj also translated 'Gadaparva' and 'Souptik Parva' of the Mahabharata.

The reign of Maharaja Upendranarayan:

During the reign of Maharaja Upendranarayan (1714-1763 A.D.), his court poet Dvija Narayan had translated, 'Naradiya Purana' (Uttarparva). Shreenath Brahman had written a book named 'Virataparva'. But Shreenath Brahman the author of 'Virataparva' and Shreenath Brahman, the court poet of Maharaja Prannarayan were not the same person. Dvija Ram Kabiraj or Ram Saraswati at the advice of Maharaja Mahindranarayan had translated 'Vishma Parva'.

The cultivation of culture and literature had stopped temporary after the reign of Maharaja Upendranarayan. Most probably the arrival of trouble in the Cooch Behar State was the main cause of this hindrance. Khan Choudhury Amanatulla Ahmed in his 'Cooch Beharer Itihas' mentioned that during the reign of Maharaja Upendranarayaan an unknown poet had translated the 'Ramayana' (Ahmed-192).

The reign of Maharaja Harendranarayan :

The reign of Maharaja Harendranarayan was the glorious period in the history of literature and culture of the Cooch Behar State. His reign (1783-1839 A.D.) was the 'Golden Age' in writing the Puranas in Bengali language. He had patronized some renowned writers and learned personalities. Among them the mentionable were Ripunjay, Raghuram, Rudra Dev Sharma, Brajasundar, Ramananda, Dvija Vaidyanath and others. Saradananda had translated 'Brahma Vaibarta' and 'Kashi Parva' of the Mahabharata. Dvija Vaidyanath had translated 'Brahma Vaibarta Purana' and Siva Parva'. Dvija Vaidyanath had written 'Padmapurana'. Madhav Chandra had written 'Vishnupurana' and 'Swargarohan Parva' of the Mahabharata. Dvija Ramannanda's 'Dharmapurana' is mentionable. Radha Krishna Das Bairagi had written the text named 'Gosani Mangal'(Dey-33). The poet had written in Gosanimangal :

*“Harendranarayan Raja Bahare palen praja
Jar Jas Ghose Sarvajane.*

Free Translation :

“King Harendranarayan ruled the subjects in Behar.
Everybody announced his reputation.

Maharaja Harendranarayan was a poet and litterateur. He had translated 'Sundara Kanda' of the Ramayana and 'Siva Parva', 'Shallya parva' of Mahabharata, 'Skanda Purana (Brahmattorparva)', 'Brihadharma Purana' (Maddhya and Uttarkhanda)', 'Kriayogasar', 'Upakatha' and 'Gitabali'(Deb-33). We can see two streams which were flowed in his writings. The first type is the translation of books and second is the composition of books by him. Maharaja Harendranarayan was the first king who at first introduced the writing of allegorical story.

The reign of Moharaja Shivendranarayan :

Maharaja Shivendranarayan was a patron of education and literature. The poets and litterateurs had received the patronage of Shivendranarayan. Dvija Mahinath Sharma's 'Chandikar Brotokotha', Ripunjay Das's 'Siva Purana' and 'Maharaja Vamshavali', 'Rajopakhan' of Joynath Munshi all were composed during the reign of Shivendranarayan. At the order of the king some information about his accession on the throne had sent to the press at Srirampur for the publication in 'Samachar Darpan'(Moonshi-124).

Joynath Munshi's 'Rajapakhyan' is divided in three chapter such as 'Deva Khanda', 'Nara Khanda'and 'Prataksha Khanda'. The 'Deva Khanda' dealt with Haria Mandal and his son Biswasingha and the information of Cooch Behar State. The 'Nara Khanda' dealt with the accession from Maharaja Naranarayan to Maharaja Harendranarayan. The 'Prataksha Khanda' dealt with accession of Maharaja Shivendranarayan. Rajopakhyan was not a historical book, as it has written entirely

for the sake of the state. This book is a landmark in the history of the prose literature in the Cooch Behar State.

Maharaja Shivendranarayan was a great composer of songs in aboration of Sakti. Some songs of Shivendranarayan have found in an exercise book in the archive of Cooch Behar. These are known as 'Song of Shivendranarayan' and published at Bina Press of Cooch Behar with the effort of Cooch Behar Sahitya Sabha in 1345 Bengali Era. The name of the book is 'Maharaja Shivendranarayan Sangeet Sangraha'.

The reign of Maharaja Nripendranarayan:

Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was a litterateur like his forefathers. He was the maker of modern Cooch Behar. During his reign a new feeling or thinking emerged in the field of literary activities in the state. We have no nothing about his writing in Bengali language. He had written an English book about his experience on hunting which was published in 1908 A.D. The name of the book is 'Thirty Seven years of Big game shooting in Cooch Behar, the Duars and Assam, A Rough Diary' (Sanyal-85).

The reign of Maharaja Jitendranarayan :

Maharaja Jitendranarayan was an eminent poet and dramatist. He had written in English. With the initiative of Nripendranarayan and under the presidentship of his brother Victor Nityendranarayan, the Cooch Behar Sahitya Sabha was established in 1915 A.D. Maharaja Jitendranarayan had written two texts in English (Deb Nath-50). These are '28th February (1915 A.D.)' and '4th of May (1915 AD)'. He also composed a comedian drama named 'Hello Darjeeling' in 1915 A.D. This drama was composed on the background of the First World War.

The patronage of Prince Victor Nityendranarayan :

Victor Nityendranarayan' one of the prince of Maharaja Nripendranarayan was a patron of education and literature. He had collected some precious books from different parts of the world. Besides the writing of the editorial opinion in the book of Indubhushan Majumder, he had written a few which are mentionable.

Literary activities of the Queens and other lady members of the royal family of the Cooch Behar State :

The queens and other lady members in the royal family of the Cooch Behar State gave inspiration in the cultivation of literature and also expressed their ability in writing text, literature etc.

Maharani Bhanumati Devi :

Among the renowned personalities in the royal family of Cooch Behar State, first of all we should mention the name of Bhanumati Devi, the queen of Maharaja Naranarayan. She did not write any literature but she has given inspiration for the

expansion of learning in the royal family. The famous grammarian Purusottyam Vidyabagis had written 'Prayogratnmala' at the advice of Maharaja Naranarayan and Bhanumati Devi(Roy Dr. Jaydip-33).

Maharani Kameswari and Brindeswari Devi :

Kameswari Devi and Brindeswari Devi, the queens of Maharaja Shivendranarayan were the great patrons of literature. Brindeswari Devi was the first efficacious litterateur in the royal court of Cooch Behar State. Vrindeswari Devi had written 'Beharodanta', a good interpretation of court history(Gait-16). Some criticiser pointed her as Female Poet of Tista- Brahmaputra region. 'Behaodanta' had written with lyrical manner but quit authentically from the reign of Biswasingha to Shivendranarayan. Another important historical work known as 'Maharaj Vamsavali' or the chronicle of the king of Cooch Behar State had written by Ripunjay Das at the advice of Queen Kameswari Devi. The book is said to be a very great step in the cultivation of Bengali Prose literature.

Maharani Sunity Devi :

Moharani Sunity Devi, the queen of Maharaja Nripendranarayan and the eldest daughter of Keshab Chandra Sen was a famous litterateur in the royal family of the Cooch Behar State in modern period(Das-30). She was well educated both in Bengali and in English and wrote many books . The Bengali books are : 'Amrita Bindu' (Part-1,1325 Bengali Era, Part-II, 1332 Bengali Era) , "Katakathar Gan (1328 Bengali Era); 'Shishukeshab' (1922 A.D),'Jharer Dola'(1921 A.D.); 'Sahana' (1915 A.D.),' ; ' Sivnath' (1921 A.D.)' , 'Songha Sankhya' (1924 A.D.); 'Sati' (Lyrical Drama, Published probably in 1922 A.D.) and 'Rabindra Janma Tithi' (compilation of Songs and Poems of Rabindranath Tagore).

Suniti Devi has written some books in English. These are 'The Rajput Princess' (1917) ; 'the Beautiful Mughal Princess (1918)', 'Nine Ideal Indian Women' (1919); The Life of Princess Yasodara' (1920); the 'Bengal Decoits and Tigers' (1916); Autobiography of an Indian princess (1921, latest edition-1995A.D. , edited by Biswanath Das); 'Indian Fairy Tales (1922) and 'Prayers' (1924)(Das-45).

Sabitri Devi , second daughter of Keshab Chandra Sen and wife of the cousin of Maharaja Nripendranarayan was also an energetic in the writing of literature. She had written a memories named 'Kumar Gajendranarayan' which was published in 1928 A.D. Apart from the discussion of the family matters, this memories also deals with the representation of various things about the Cooch Behar State.

Nirupama Devi:

Nirupama Devi, wife of Victor Nityendranarayan, had earned the fame in composition of literature and editing of periodicals. She had written some books. These books are : 'Basanta Mallika' (1916); 'Dhup' (1918);' Godhuli' (1928) and' Sheser Kabita' (1981). Most probably 'Amar Jiban' which published in 1994 in the magazine

entitled 'Ekshan' was the last composition of Nirupama Devi. Besides the editing of 'Beharodanta' of Brindaswari Devi, she has written some writings in disguise.

Gayatri Devi:

Gayatri Devi, daughter of Maharaja Jitendranarayan and Maharani Indira Devi; who was the third Maharani of Jaipur had written 'A Princess Remembers' and 'The Memoires of the Maharani of Jaipur' jointly with Santha Rama Rau. The Indian edition of this book was published in 1982.

Literary activities of some famous personalities in different places of the Cooch Behar State:

In the second half of the 19th century, the impact of the modern western education changed the medieval ideas in the cultivation of literature in the Cooch Behar State. Gradually a section of writers and readers enriched by the modern ideas emerged outside of the royal court and the royal family. At that time we have found two streams in the cultivation of literature. One is the cultivation of literature of the kings, queens and other members of the royal family. Another one is the cultivation of literature of the government employees and general educated class.

In 1875, the Cooch Behar State Press was established. With the establishment of the government press a new era emerged in the history of printing. Since then the area of the cultivation of literature increased widely. We have known about some personalities who were trying to continue the stream of the cultivation of literature. Among them the reputed persons were : In the field of poetic works Radha Krishna Das Bairagi (The author of the 'Gosanimangal') , Akhilchandra Palit, Ghanashyam Dalai, Rajanikanta Chakraborty; in the field of novel and short story Janaki Ballav Biswas, Sarat Chandra Ghosal; in the composition of drama Siddhyanath Vidyabagis, Charuchandra Roy; in writing of essays Upendranath Singha, Jadunath Niogy and others.

In the field of writing history, biography etc. the famous personalities were Khan Chowdhury Amanatullah Ahmed, Ripunjoy Das, Bhagavaticharan Bandhyopadhyaya, Yadav Chandra Chakraborty , Sarat Chandra Ghosal, E.A. Gait, A. Cambell and others. Nripendra Sriti' composed by Dindayal was printed and published in 1915 A.D. Roy Saheb Panchanan Barma had written the poem named 'Dangdhari Meo'. 'Abhimanini', an excellent novel was composed by Sarat Chandra Ghosal. Sarat Chandra Gupta, the then principal of Victoria College wrote two dramas namely the 'Pandava Banabas' and 'Narmedhajagna' in peotic manner. Khan Chowdhury Amantualla Ahmed had written a drama on the life of Maharaja Biswasingha. Sarat Chandra Ghosal wrote many books such as 'Vedanta Paribhasa', 'Mimangsha Paribhasa, 'Apta Mimangsha' etc. Shashibhusan Halder had written the 'Cooch Behar Adhipati Maharaja Narendra Narayan Jibon Charita'.

In the Second half of the 19th century a new rational historiography emerged in Cooch Behar State. Babu Ananda Chandra Ghosh had written 'Cooch Beharer Itihas'. Bhagabaticharan Bandhopadhyay wrote 'Cooch Beharer Itihas' which was published in 1882 by the Cooch Behar State press(Bandhyopadhyay-87). This book was dedicated to Maharaja Nripendranarayan. An example of modern historiography was 'Cooch Beharer Itihas'. It was written by Yadav Chandra Chakraborty.

Yadav Chandra Chakraborty's another book was 'The Native State of India' which published in 1895. Harendranarayan Choudhury wrote 'The Cooch Behar State and its land Revenue Settlement' which was written in English and published in 1903 by Cooch Behar State press. Khan Chowdhury Amanatulla Ahmed wrote 'Cooch Beharer Itihas' (Part-I)(Choudhury-21. It was published in 1936 by the Cooch Behar State Press.

Some Bengali epic poem about god and goddesses had written during the reign of the Cooch rulers. Radhakrishna Das Bairagi wrote 'Gasanimangal' on the majesty of goddess Gosani Devi. It preached the majesty of Gosani Devi or Devi Chandika. Cooch Behar State was the first place in North Bengal where at first the newspaper introduced. A large number of newspapers, periodicals and monthly journals were published here. 'Cooch Behar Masik Patrika' (1877 A.D) was the first newspaper in Cooch Behar State and its editor was Kumar Rangil Narayan, a member of the royal family of Cooch Behar State. In 1885, another monthly journal named 'Kulashatra' was published. 'Paricharika', another monthly journal was published in 1916A.D. 'Cooch Behar Darpan', a fortnightly magazine was published in 1938 by the Cooch Behar State Press. All the newspaper supplied us some valuable information of the contemporary period of the Princely State of Cooch Behar .

Conclusion:

The Maharajas of the Princely State of Cooch Behar were the great patrons of education and literature. The queens and others members of the royal family were the great composer of literature at that time in the state. The state had an active role for encourage the cultivation of literature. A large number famous poets and litterateurs adorned the royal court of the Cooch Behar State. The royal court of the Cooch Behar State became a great centre of learning. The Cooch rule occupied a unique place in the annals of Bengal literature. The existence of the Cooch Behar State was characterized by all round efflorescence of literature in its difference branches.

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