

Telugu Manuscripts of Sourashtra Sabha: A Bird's Eye View

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Abstract: This research paper is a survey paper which is going to present the result of the survey made for finding out the recorded Telugu manuscripts available in the Sourashtra Sabha. Different manuscripts of many subjects in Telugu are observed in the said Sabha. There are manuscripts on Telugu grammar, like Andhrashabdanushasanam. There are many manuscripts on the mythology, like, Telugu Bhagavatham, Vishnu puranam, Pandavula Charithra etc. There are many books on simple poetry, like, Drivacharitham, Abareeshopakhyanam, Ramadasu Charithra. There are so many manuscripts on Keertanas (traditional musical works, i.e. songs about divinity and its grace) written by different pioneers of the fields, like, Tyagaraj. There are many manuscripts on the treatises of different fields of knowledge, like Kokkoka Kalasastharam, Vasthusasthram. Some manuscripts are regarding the astrology, like Bhava Nirnayam, Graha Balam, Jyothishya. Some manuscripts are regarding the Vedanta philosophy, like, Vedantha Vicharam, Narada Tathvopadesam. Some of the manuscripts belong to the old medicinal knowledge, like Vaidyamlo Manthra Sasthram, Vaidya Prameyam etc. Some manuscripts are there in Shatakam genre which, generally, consists of hundred poems or stanzas. Some other manuscripts belong to miscellaneous subjects. The collection of manuscripts demonstrates the aptitude of the manuscript-collectors also, because whichever subject they like, they preserve it. The paper advocates the need of study and publication of these works so that they may be useful for the people and some light can be thrown on the authors of that time.

Key Words: Telugu Manuscript, Sourashtra Sabha, Keertanas. Jyautisha, Madurai.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Shivamuni, founder of Munisamaja, writes, individuals get so many ideas every day, but, they can remember only a few of them. Whatever they remember is not written or documented by them. Whatever they document rarely get the shape of a book. All books are not published and all published books do not become popular or all books do not become accessible for all the people. In this way, human knowledge and experiences of life are perishing. So, there is a need to preserve the thoughts and knowledge of humanity even though one does not agree with every idea expressed in them. Many books disappeared in India itself only because of not becoming manuscripts. Most of the Shakhas of Samaveda and some Shakhas of other Vedas also met with such fate. This is the philosophy of preserving the knowledge and handing over it to the coming generations. Manuscripts play a vital role in doing this. Manuscripts are the treasure bearers of the ancestors' experience of life. They hand over the knowledge and insights about life to the coming generations. But, this is possible only when the preserved manuscripts are read and used for the enhancement of social betterment. If they are not read well and used in a proper manner, they will die an unnoticed death. None can say that there were no manuscripts in India, but, many of them met with untimely death due to lack of proper care and study. Thanks to the Europeans who inspired the people all over the world regarding preservation of manuscript, because many of the books disappeared only due to no proper preservation. Of course, change of rule and change of dominance of religion also played role in the destruction of books. But, the Europeans initiated a revolution for preservation of manuscripts and reading and publishing them. But, world had the manuscripts more than the expectation of the scholars. So, it was not possible to publish every manuscript. Anyway, after this revolution, so many manuscripts could be saved and many scholars like C.P. Brown, Cunningham, T. Ganapathi Shastri, Haraprasad Shastri, Rahul Sankrityayan etc. became leading personalities in this field.

There are so many manuscripts in southern part of India also which required preservation and support. Among them, Telugu manuscripts are there which are scattered in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. After the Vijayanagara empire took hold of some portion of present time Tamil Nadu, like Madurai, Andhra kings'

support to literary works gave birth to the Telugu literature in these areas also. But, this literature is only in the form of manuscripts now. Some of these literary works are available in different libraries of Tamil Nadu, like, Tanjore and Madurai etc. Some portion of this treasure is available in the Sourashtra Sabha.

2. DISCUSSION:

Telugu literature flourished even now a days in the Tanjore and Madurai as it happened in 17th century A.C.E. Related with this Sourashtra Sabha of Madurai has a rich collection of Telugu Manuscripts. More than fifty percent of the available manuscripts in Sourashtra Sabha are in Telugu only. Available manuscripts are listed and tabulated in Tamil by Sri. O.S. Subramanian, Hon. Director of Museum of Sourashtra Sabha.

Sourashtra Sabha

Sourashtra Sabha is a Public incorporated on 01 April 1956. It is classified as Guarantee and Association company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Chennai. Sourashtra Sabha's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was last held on 20 September 2016 and as per records from Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), its balance sheet was last filed on 31 March 2016.

Directors of Sourashtra Sabha are Anna Ramamoorthy Balajee, Logandha Subramanian Venkatesh Babu, Ragupathi Ramakrishnan Ragurajendran, Getty Perumaliyer Pandurengan, Raneer Sundararao Jeevanlal, Thasma Sessaier Uthaman, Thimmakonda Vijayaragavachari Viswanathan, Thoppae Damotharan Sujatha, Rani Ramamoorthy Baskar Babu, Nattamai Malli Radhakrishniyer Siva Pooranachandhiran, Sourashtra Sabha's Corporate Identification Number is (CIN) U92490TN1956GAP002573 and its registration number is 2573. Its Email address is sathyab2001@yahoo.co.in and its registered address is 13, Sourashtra Krishnan Kovil Street Madurai - 625001.

Manuscripts related with many genres are available and they are classified as:

Ithihasas

Thirteen manuscripts related with literature in which Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas are included. Some works like *18va Adhyamlo Telugu matalu (Bharatham)*, *Telugu Bhagavatham*, *Vishnu puranamu*, *Pandavula Charithra*, *Srimad Tyagaraya Charithra*, are available under this genre.

Keertanas

Fifty Nine manuscripts related with music are available. Some works related with Svara and some are related with Keertana. Among the many kritis of giants, Kritis of Thyagaraja is also available.

Grammar

Six manuscripts related with Grammar are available. Some works like *Andhrabhashabhushanam*, *Chandassu & Vyakaranam* etc., are available under this genre.

Kavyas

Ten manuscripts related with Kavya are available. Some works like *Drivacharitham*, *Abareeshopakhyanam*, *Ramadasu Charithra*, *Srivasthala Parinayam* etc., are available under this genre.

Astrology

Fifteen manuscripts related with Astrology are available. Some works like *Jyothisham Bhava Nirnayam*, *Graha Balam*, *Jyothishya*, *Jathakam & Bhagavadgitha*, *Jyothishya Chitkalu*, etc., are available under this genre.

Sastras

Nine manuscripts related with Sastra are available. Some works on Vastu, Prosody and Sakuna are available. Some works like *Kokkoka Kalasastharam*, *Vasthusasthram*, *Chandas sasthram*, *Sakuna Sasthram* etc., are available under this genre.

Vedanta

Three manuscripts related with Vedanta are available. Some works like *Vedantha Vicharam*, *Narada Tathvopadesam*, *Maruthvam – Ramastottara*... are available under this area.

Medicine

Seven manuscripts related with Medicine are available. Among them, some works related with Home remedies are also available. Some works like *Vaidyamlo Manthra Sasthram*, *Vaidya Prameyam etc.*, are available under this genre.

Satakam

Two manuscripts related with Satakam are available. Some works like *Lakshmi* are available under this genre.

Miscellaneous

Seventeen manuscripts related with this are available. Inscriptions related, Rituals related, Navagraha Aradhana, Sourashtra Telugu, Telugu Kannada Word Index are also available. Some works like *Paramakudi Bhugriha kshaya Sasanam*, *Saurashtra & Telugu Slokas*, *Telugu-Kannada Padalu*, *Navagraha Aradhanam etc.*, are available under this genre.

3. CONCLUSION:

These Manuscripts have to be screened thoroughly and rare and unpublished manuscripts have to be published so that the Literature of Telugu as well as public will be benefitted. Some of the Vocabulary which are not available with Telugu now are available in these manuscripts.

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