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Seeding for the Growth of Indian Science Fiction

Disclaimer: This is a thought experiment and it is one of the ways of explorations.

Recollecting the History of Science Fiction

Proto-Science Fiction

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* (1818)

Trends like glorifying machine, space odyssey, Time machine, devastating effects of the world wars, overcoming Frankenstein complex, cyberpunk & others.

A shift in the theme – medical, socio-psychological, speculative fiction, colonization, man-machine symbiosis, aliens vs humans, terra-farming, and others till the dawn of the 21st century.

Science Fiction –its uniqueness

1. Of all the branches of knowledge, science explores possible answers for reason and method of any matter or action (Why & How).
2. Science Fiction – keeping definitions, statements, postulates the principles and the process of Science at the background, SF narrates the impact of Science & Technological over the society in the form of a story.
3. SF is like a universal water solvent. Many things can dissolve in it and form its own shape, size, colour, odour, and feel.
4. It can be studied from various angles like Myth, Utopia/Dystopia and Fantasy.

Science Fiction –its uniqueness

Apart from dealing with marginalization issues,

In general,

5. It creates a 'novum' which takes the readers and viewers to the far-fetched future time and unseen distant worlds.

6. It addresses the issues of the homosapiens as a whole.

7. It suggests plausible solutions for the societal contemporary problems.

SF: Indian Scenario

SF is not popular among majority of Indians

A few of them say they cannot understand science.

A few of them say it is not science, but it is fiction.

Exclusive SF departments are not there in any one of the higher education institutions for the promotion of research.

SF: Indian Scenario

Publication of exclusive SF creative or critical writings are difficult to find in all the 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages.

{With the exception of hardcopy *Vignyan Katha* (Hindi), *Kalpabishwa* (online in Bengali), *adhbut.in* (online English) and *Mithila Journal* (English online).

They lack funding.}

SF: Indian Scenario

Targetting at the box office hit, most of them have romantic stories with a thin layer of SF elements.

There are a very few Indian SF movies which could align with global standards.

Cartoon net work has to catch up the speed yet.

SF: Indian Scenario

Yet another reason might be that SF projects the far-fetched future life.

Hence, most of the Indians might not have evinced interest in it.

Who bothers about what happens in the days when we cannot even imagine our existence at all.

Suppose if we speak of today and immediate tomorrow, then it may catch interest.

Techno - Fiction (a branch of SF)

Science and narration are the backbones of Techno-Fiction.

It highlights the present day gadgets;
creates enough impetus for updation of the gadgets;
recommend for new versions,
and may suggest a projection of the futuristic forms to come in the near future.

Issues of their impact of use, misuse, & overuse could also be considered.

Methods of Popularization

To create venues in formal learning.

To provide incentives in reservation of quota at the entry next level of education.

To provide special quota in job selection, incentives for higher promotion, and to provide special posts in various departments and in industries.

To establish separate departments for researchers.

To establish exclusive library sections for availability of the works.

To create easy access for the authors to publish their respective works in any Indian language.

To institute awards for exemplary creative and critical works in the field.

Starting point

To introduce the stories for study from the base level. Provisions to be made for the availability of offline/online material for authors, scholars, sci-fi fans and others.

To establish a bureau of experts for consultation, to revise, to review, guide and to recommend for the people of all levels.

Contemporary problems

Authors could suggest plausible solutions for the contemporary solutions in their creative works

The anthologies of Dr. DP Singh (Canada) & Dr. Gurupreet Kaur (Punjab) have begun their contributions to one such theme: Climate Change in their very recent works.

Students of Engineering courses

Using the present acquired technological knowledge in one's own field, they are advised to start with a thought experiment to predict the next level of plausible technological change which may be expected in a few years from now.

Students of Engineering courses

It may be in the form of a story, proposal, experiment, project, production of a movie, a documentary, an animated visual episode or a presentation in a symposium or in a seminar or in a conference.

It is open for others also.

Thank you

Now it is your turn to interact.