



## **“DR BHUPEN HAZARIKA’S SONGS AND THE PICTURES OF NORTH-EAST”**

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### **Abstract**

*Bhupen Hazarika (1926-2011) was a man-lyricist, poet, composer, singer, director, actor, singer, editor and what not. He is the creator of a good number of significant songs. His songs reflect the agony, pain, sufferings of the common masses. His songs had been a great contribution in the reformation of our society and are considered as the weapon of social reformation. This paper will highlight the contribution of Bhupen Hazarika's songs to the Assamese society and North-East.*

**Keywords:** *Agony, Reformation, Bhupen Hazarika, North-East.*

### **Introduction**

Bhupen Hazarika (8 September, 1926 -5 November, 2011) was a lyricist, composer, performing artist, music director, film director, poet, writer and all rolled in one. His songs which are written and sung mainly in the Assamese language are songs of humanity and unity. His songs are based on the themes of communal amity, universal brotherhood and sympathy. He is acknowledged to have introduced the culture and folk music of Assam as well as north-east India to the national level. He received the National Film Award in 1975. He was also the recipient of Sangeet Natak Academy Award (1987), Padmashri (1977), Padma Bhushan (2001), Dada Saheb Phalke Award (1992), Sangeet Natak Academy Fellowship (2008). He was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2012 and the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

### **Objective**

The objective of the paper is to highlight on the songs that were written and sung by Bhupen Hazarika for the betterment and well-being of Assamese society. Through these songs, he tried to bring into light the plight and agony of the oppressed masses. Hence, this paper is an attempt to highlight on the contributions of Bhupen Hazarika through his songs to the Assamese society and north-east as well.

### **Methodology**

The method used in this paper is description evaluative method. The study is mainly review based it is purely supported by secondary sources of data, i.e. books, journals, paper, articles and interest.

### **Contributions**

Bhupen Hazarika made sterling contributions throughout his songs which he composed and song. His thoughts, his mentality were expressed through his songs in a varied way. Bhupen Hazarika also made remarkable contribution towards strengthening the unity between the Assamese people and other communities. He always asked the people of Assam to remember the manifold contributions made by different caste-communities to the social life of the Assamese people. Bhupen Hazarika is acclaimed internationally for his evergreen songs. His songs are based on the theme of communal unity, universal justice and empathy. He has written innumerable songs and has used his songs for social change as well as the reformation of a classless society. Bhupen Hazarika's songs are divided into different categories on the basis of the needs of the society. These are- songs of patriotism, songs of human interest, songs of revolutionary change, songs of nature, songs of love etc. Songs of Patriotism Bhupen Hazarika was a



true patriot. Thereby, his songs reflect the sense of patriotism in its truest sense. His love for the country has inspired him to pen down numerous patriotic songs.

Agni zugarfiringatimoi  
Natun Assam garhim  
Sarbaaaraarsarbaswa  
Punarfiraaiaanim  
Natun Bharat garhim

(Of the fiery age, I'm a spark; I will build up a new Assam/to the have-nots I'll bring back whatever they've lost/I will build up a new India) .

Being inspired by the patriots, during the freedom struggle, Bhupen Hazarika wrote this song. The lyrics of his songs indicate a deep of sense of love and respect for his nation.

In another song 'Asam aamar rupahi gunaro naai sesh (Our Assam is lovely so, her gifts, too, make her glow...). Bharatarepurbadesatsurjyauthadesh'

Bhupen Hazarika depicts a unique picture of Assam, Where the sun rises first, where there is a co-existence among various communities of hills and plains. In this song the cultural harmony and social condition of Assam has been highlighted. Another popular and heart effecting song of BhupenHazarika is-

Buku ham hamkaremorAai  
Konenidra hare morAai  
Putra hoi maikemate taro  
Aai, tore hoi moimaro.

(My heart is hammering, o mother! How can, I your son, tide you over? I feel like dying for you) This particular song was a part of the film 'Maniram Dewan' who was a great Assamese revolted against British imperialism and was hanged by the British. Later the song was used in the movie 'Maniram Dewan' in 1963. With regard to the pathetic condition of Indo-China war of 1962, Bhupen Hazarika composed a song in memory of the sacrifice of the martyrs i.e.,

Koto jowanormrityuhol  
Kaarjeewanjouwangol  
Seimrityuaparaajiya  
Tenemritaknoholomaikiya.

(So many soldiers met their ends/Lost their lives and youths/their deaths are invincible/among them had I been one...).

Song of Human interest In Bhupen Hazarika's songs "Human being" or "Man" is the central entity. His songs reflect the humanistic feeling in its every aspect. His love for mankind can be depicted in his famous song-

Manuhemanuhar babe  
Jadiheakonunavabe



Akonisahaanubhutire  
Bhabibokunenukowa,  
Samaniya?

(If humans do not care/about humans at all/with a bit of sympathy/who else will care? Say o mate!)  
This song has been considered as the most popular song in Assam and has been translated to almost all Indian languages. During the war of independence of Bangladesh in 1971 thousands of people lost their lives. These incidents emotionalized and sadden Bhupen Hazarika . As a result, he reflected his emotions by writing the beautiful song-

Ganga amar ma  
Padma amar ma  
O amar dui chokhe Dui jalerdhara  
MeghnaJamuna  
Another significant song of BhupenHazarika is-  
Xitoremekarati  
Bastrabihinkonokhetiyokor  
Bhagiporapojatir  
Tuhjuiakura  
Umiumi jail thaka Raktimjenetiuttaphau

(Chilly is the winter night/In the worn-out cottage/Of a peasant hard up for cloths/Let me be its glowing warmth...).

Here, Bhupen Hazarika talks about the poor, suppressed and deprived masses of the society. He revolt against the rules and feudal for their autocratic nature. He also explains the scenario of the intellectual society which remains silent in those contemporary issues. Bhupen Hazarika was always concerned with the different stratum of society irrespective of sex, caste, creed, religion etc. Therefore, he writes

Prothomnohoi  
Ditiyanohoi  
Tritiyashrenirjatriaami

(Neither first/nor second/we are the passengers of the third class).

Celebrating the strength of the working mass, he identified himself as a co passenger travelling towards the same destination. In this song we find optimistic expression of human philosophy of Bhupen Hazarika. Songs of revolutionary change Bhupen Hazarika was always concerned with the problems of the common masses. He was a true revolutionary and his revolutionary spirit was reflected in his various songs. His famous song which depicts a revolutionary change is-

Bistiirnapaarare  
Asangkhyajanare/  
Haahaakaarsunio  
Nihsabdeniirawe  
Burhaaluittumi  
Burhaaluitbowakiya?.



In this song Bhupen Hazarika speaks about the cultural, political, economic and social reform of his native Assamese society. He uses some powerful words like ‘Unmadona’, ‘Veer’, ‘Pitritta’ etc. for the change of the society. Another example of Bhupen Hazarika’s song with the revolutionary theme-

Aami Asomiya nahao dukhiya  
Bulisaantanalabhile nohobo

This particular song of Bhupen Hazarika addresses the Assamese people as ‘Thalua’ and ‘Natun Asomiya’. When the song was composed the entire state was confronting with the problem of indentify conflict. In this song the message unity in diversity is highlighted. Songs of Nature Bhupen Hazarika was a true love of nature. His most of the songs depicts the natural beauty of Assam as well as north-east.

Shillongoregodhuli  
XapunsohororMaramisarator  
Xuworonixonali  
Shillongore godhuli

This song narrates the beauty of Shillong along with Bhupen Hazarika’s romantic moments. Bhupen Hazarika composed it when he was in Shillong. Shillong is one of the most beautiful cities of north-eastern region and is considered as one of the famous destinations among all Bhupen Hazarika was quite fascinated by the natural beauty of Shillong. Thereby, in order to promote this beauty worldwide he has written the song first in Assamese and later, it was translated in English. Another popular song of Bhupen Hazarika which speaks about nature is-

Akashi janere  
Uroniamonore  
Dukmukalite  
Pashimorpara,  
Bangarparamarilu era  
Mur lokhyosthanhol Tezpur

In this song Bhupen Hazarika reminds the golden old days when people used to fly and write poems about it. Here, Bhupen Hazarika depicts his aerial journey from Kolkata to Tezpur. He also describes about the Brahmaputra and how it looks like the gamusa from the blue infinite above, the Garo Hills while travelling to his destination i.e., Tezpur. Songs of Love Bhupen Hazarika has also written a number of love songs. One such song which speaks about love is-

Xoixobote Dhemalite  
Tumaareumolamonotase  
BohagmaahorLuitKhon  
Duiuhaturamonotase...

In this song Bhupen Hazarika describes about the love story of a boy who has fallen in love with a girl in teen age period of his life. But, unfortunately the girl left him. In order to give the song a touch of eternal love Bhupen Hazarika uses some powerful words like ‘gusigola’, ‘goraakibolila’ etc. Bhupen Hazarika’s another magnificent song which narrates about love is-

Tumardekhunaampatralekha/  
Patratuminilikhahola



Hoitumurpuronathikona/  
Tumarmonotnai

(Your name I know is Patralekha/yet you've stopped writing letters/May be, you do not remember/The old address of mine).

Here, Bhupen Hazarika expresses the feeling of lovers, love and affection. This song clearly expresses the feeling of love which is attached in a relationship.

### **Bhupen Hazarika and the songs for North-East**

World figure Dr. Bhupen Hazarika was a man of Assam. Ratna, Sudha Kantha, Jajabory Artist as for men mainly the bridge of North-East's peoples. In his songs the picture of the rivers like Dihing, Dichang-Kapili, Mahabahu Brahmaputra to Ganga- Jamuna – Krishna Kaberupto Mississippi- Bhalga he wants to flow and see the world's peoples. So he knew the condition of hills and plains, if there is no unity then the original beauty will be damaged future and so he writes from Miching, Karbi –Miree for hills society-

### **Meghalaya**

“ Shillongore Monalisha Lindoo...”  
Chiyangargalong/ Loitor Khamtee  
Tirapor Wanchu/ Teolokemokkiyamatish..  
Moy Apatani Bhaniyekok/ Akowali Loishiloo...  
“Liye makao/ konpaharsikharotebaatchaicha  
Surarpojakiyou dangrakhim  
Akolsaremoikimankandim  
Take eke monebhabishu.”

Dr. Hazarika also wrote for Tea-Gardens people-

### **Tea Tribe**

‘ Moi Asomar bagishar showali  
Champanohay Chamely mornaam”  
Radhasurarfulgushi/ Radhapurar Radhika/  
Chahbagichat Jhumurnaashi/ Jugnukjache Fatikaa”  
“Asomdesor bagichare showali  
Jhumortumornashikoroodhemali’

Another song which is the Assam's Picture we see the various peoples-

“Nanajatiupojati/ Rahaniya Kristi/  
Akowalyoihoishilsristi  
Eimor Asomdesh/  
Bibhedpori horiniz hate sromkori /  
desoknagahrileedesh hobanihsesh/  
Arumonborobhagi- shingijabo”

One another song he shows the real beauty of Assam that song is

“Asom Amar rupahigunoroo nay sesh/



Bharatorepurbadisotsurjauthadesh.....  
PaharBhoiyamakkekoraRamdhenureidore/  
Tomarbhasarmoram bore milonsetugorhre”

**Mishings** Bolo O’ Mishingdekati/ Bojali je pepati  
Suresajalidekhodichangmukharnishati  
**Nepali-** FutgodhuliteKapilikhutit  
KonGorkhaligabhoruseijani  
**Arunachal-** ChiyangareGalong...Ekotarebehakoribhakiloubhatoo  
Ubhati chai dekhooahichesihotoo  
Ringiyaikolemok/ kishubelirobi/  
UbhatigoittoiAsomikekobi.

### Conclusion

Bhupen Hazarika’s songs play an important role in inculcating moral values in one’s own life. His songs contain the feeling of love, friendship, oneness, peace, unity and harmony, which can be regarded as the weapon of social reformation. His song does not have only theoretical importance, but practical importance too. Today, our society is deeply rooted with evils, conflicts, violence etc. In this context, Bhupen Hazarika’s immortal which are flooded with all such noble values helps in eradicating all the evils from our society and will further built a better society in the nearby future.

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