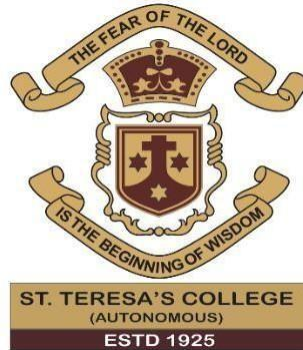


**LITERATURE AND LIFE: AN ANALYSIS OF
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S
"A LETTER FROM A FATHER TO HIS DAUGHTER"**



*Project submitted to St. Teresa's College (Autonomous) in partial fulfilment of
the requirement for the degree of BACHELOR OF ARTS in English*

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project entitled “Literature and life :an analysis of Jawaharlal Nehru,” A Letter from a Father to his daughter “ is the record of bona fide work done by me under the guidance and supervision of Ms.Lakshmipriya P Santhosh, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

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I hereby declare that this project entitled “Literature and Life :An Analysis of Jawaharlal Nehru, *A letter from a Father to his Daughter*” by Steniya Jully is a record of bona fide work carried out by her under my supervision and guidance.

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An Abstract of the Project entitled
Literature and Life : An Analysis of Jawaharlal Nehru
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It is a close analysis of the book “*A Letter from a father to his daughter*” written by the famous writer and the first president of India Jawaharlal Nehru the from the concept of literature and life. It is a book talking about the bondage between a father and a daughter. It isa collection of letters that Nehru wrote to Indira when he was in prison. Through this letter Nehru wants to bother about the world to Indira about religion and science. The letters of this book deals with the beginnings of the earth and of man's awareness o f himself.

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Introduction

Jawaharlal Nehru was born in Allahabad on November 14, 1889. He received his early education at home under private tutors. At the age of fifteen, he went to England and after 2 years at Harrow, joined Cambridge university where he took his tripos in natural sciences. He was later called to the bar from the inner temple. He returned to India in 1912 and plunged straight into politics. Even as a student he had been interested in the struggle of all nations who suffered under foreign domination. He took keen interest in the Sinn Fein Movement in Ireland. In India, he was inevitably drawn into the struggle for independence.

In 1912, he attended the Bankipore congress as a delegate and became secretary of the Home Rule league, Allahabad in 1919. In 1916, he had his first meeting with Mahatma Gandhi and felt immensely inspired by him. He organized the kisan march in Pratnagarh district of Uttar Pradesh in 1920. He was twice imprisoned in connection with the non-cooperation movement of 1920-1922.

Pt. Nehru became the General Secretary of the all India congress committee in September 1923. He toured Italy, Switzerland, England, Belgium, Germany and Russia in 1926. In Belgium, he attended the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities in Brussels as an official delegate of the Indian National Congress. He also attended the 10th anniversary of the

October socialist Revolution in Moscow in 1927. Earlier, in 1926, at the Madras Congress, Nehru had been instrumental in committing the congress to the goal of independence. While leading a procession against the Simon Commission, he was lathicharged in Lucknow in 1928. On August 29, 1928 he attended the all-party congress and was one of the signatories to the Nehru report on Indian Constitutional Reform, named after father Shri. Motilal Nehru. The same year, he also founded the Independence for India League which advocated complete severance of the British connection with India, and became its General secretary.

In 1929, Pt. Nehru was elected as president of the Lahore session of the Indian National Congress, where complete independence for the country was adopted as the goal. He was imprisoned several times during 1930-1935 in connection with salt satyagraha and other movements launched by the congress. He completed his "Autobiography" in Almora Jail on February 14, 1935. After released, he flew to Switzerland to see his ailing wife and visited London in February-March, 1936. He also visited Spain in July 1938, when the country was in the throes of civil war. Just before the outbreak of the second world war, he visited China too.

On October 31, 1940 Pt. Nehru was arrested for offering Individual satyagraha to protest against India's forced Participation in war. He was released along with the other leaders in December 1941. On August 7, 1942 Pt. Nehru moved to historic 'quit India' resolution at the AICC session in Bombay. On August 8, 1942 he was arrested along with the other leaders

and taken to Ahmednagar fort. This was his longest and also his last detention. In All ,he suffered imprisonment 9 times. After his release in January 1945, he organized legal defense for those officers and men of the INA charged with treason. In March 1946, pt. Nehru toured south Asia. He was elected president of the congress 4 times on July 6 1946, and again for 3. more terms from 1951-1954. The Muslim League, under Muhammed Ali Jinnah , had come to dominate Muslim politics in the interim. In the 1946 provincial elections the League won all seats reserved for Muslims which the British interpreted to be a clear mandate for Pakistan in some form. Nehru became interim prime minister of India in September 1946, with the leagues joining his government with hesitancy in October 1946.

Upon India's independence on 15th August 1947, Nehru gave a critically acclaimed speech "tryst with destiny" , he was sworn in as the dominion of India's prime minister and raised the Indian flag at the red fort in Delhi on January 26,1950. When India became a republic within the commonwealth of Nation's , Nehru became the republic of India's first prime minister. He embarked on an ambitious program of economic , social and political reforms. Nehru promoted a pluralistic multiparty democracy in foreign affairs , he played a leading role in establishing the non-aligned movement , a group of nations that did not seek membership in the 2 main ideological blocks of cold war.

Under Nehru's leadership, the congress emerged as a catch -all party ,dominating national and state- level politics and winning elections in

1951-1957 and 1962. Nehru remained popular with the Indian people and his premierships spanning 16 years,280 days which is to date longest in India - ended with his death on 27 may 1964 due to a heart attack. Widely recognized as the greatest figure of modern India after Mahatma Gandhi,Nehru is also hailed as the "architect of modern India ". For his contributions in nation building,securing democracy and preventing an ethnic civil war. His birthday is celebrated as Children's day India (November 14). The project is mainly divided into 2 chapters:

The first chapter talks about how he wants to write this book of letters and also what he is trying to say from this book to the readers.

In the second chapter is talking the main themes of the book.

Chapter-1

"Letter From a Father to His daughter" is a collection of letters written by Jawaharlal Nehru to his daughter Indira Nehru , originally published in 1929, Allahabad Law Journal press at Nehru's request and consisting of only 30 letters sent in the summer of 1938, when Indira was 10 years old. He arranged a second and third edition in 1931.and subsequently further reprints and editions have been published.

In the first edition, the letters written to her daughter Indira in the summer of 1928 , when she was in the Himalayas at Mussoorie and I was in the plains below. They were personal letters addressed to a little girl of 10 years. But friends ,whose advice,value, have seen some virtue in them, and have suggested that he might place them before a wider audience. He does not know if other boys and girls will appreciate them. But he hope that such of them as read these letters may gradually begin to this world of ours as a large family of nations. And also hope , though with diffidence , that they may find in the reading of them a fraction of the pleasure that they had in the writing of them.

In the second edition , he had a thought of adding these letters. But he had allied himself to a jealous mistress and service left me with little time or inclination to dabble in other matters. Last year when he went to Naini prison, the thought came back to him and time was not lacking. But prison letters are not frequent and a prison does not provide books of

reference. Above all his mind is too full of history. As it was being made from day-day. In India , he came out of jail and returned to it after a brief week Of absence. And again the months passed. On January 26 , he was suddenly discharged. Domestic affliction and whirlpool of public affairs caught him in swirl and cast his hither and thither and he awaited again peace and quiet of prison to continue this task.

In the third edition, it enabled the children to idolize their parents, but not all parents are as good companions as mine were. My father was interested in everything and delighted in sharing his enthusiasm. In this questions enables to tell about the world, and the men and women who inhabited it and who have moved others by their ideas and actions, through literature and art. Above all of this he loved to speak and write about our wonderful country, its early achievements and grandeur and the later decline and bondage. One thought was the uppermost in his mind and that was freedom - freedom not only for India but for all the peoples of the world.

The letters have earlier appeared in book forms different languages, but I am sure this attractive reprints will appeal to children and will open new vistas for them as the original letters did for me.

The reason behind writing the letter to Indira was one of the key intentions of Nehru was to introduce Indira to an unbiased view of history and the current state affairs. The letters reflect Nehru's love for nature, people, history and also reflects his desire to inculcate the same values in

his daughter.

It shows the bond between a father and a daughter. Such that no matter how far they are from each other, it is the beating of heart that brings them together. It was in summer of 1928, that Jawaharlal Nehru first decided that despite the distance, he wanted to build a bridge of love and understanding with his daughter Indira, Nehru continuously wrote letters from prison over 4 years and his words are very inspiring. In 1973 Indira Gandhi said that the letters written by Nehru aroused a feeling of concern for people and interest in the world around. They taught her to treat nature as a book.

The present letter is sent by Nehru as a birthday present to Indira. It holds a specific significance because it reflects Nehru's honest and fearless living he says that his present might not be materialistic but it can be of the mind and spirit things that even high walls of prison cannot stop. Nehru never believed in sermonizing and doling out good advice. According to him, the best way to find out what is right and what is wrong. What should be done and what should not be done is learn by talking and discussing.

Discussion will bring out little bit of truth. In history, we read of great periods in life of nations of great men and women. He reminds Indira how fascinated she was when reading the story "Jeanne D'arc". He says that, ordinary men and women are not usually heroic. They just think about their bread and butter of their children and of their household worries.

People become heroes when they get interested in a great cause. In India great leaders like Bapuji had something in them which inspired people and made them do great deeds. Gandhiji inspired people by great actions by doing noble sacrifices. All his messages stole the hearts of millions of Indians. His words worked as magic for men and women to come out of their shell and become India's soldiers of freedom.

Nehru also says that they are fortunate to witness the happenings of the freedom struggle in front of their eyes. Nehru asked Indira never to do anything in secret or hide anything. If she does it means that she was afraid which was bad and unworthy. Nehru suggested that in our private lives we should make friends with the sun and work in the light and do nothing in secrecy. Nehru assured Indira that if she followed his words, she would grow as a child of the light, unafraid, tranquil and undisturbed. He also wishes her to grow as a brave soldier in India's service.

Chapter-2

Nehru wrote "The quest of man" to his daughter Indira Priyadharshini from the Dehradun district jail. This letter's subject matter is philosophical, but it has been written in a simple and elegant style. In his letter "The quest of man" Nehru describes his current place of confinement when he is close to the mountains and greenery that surrounds his prison. There is no resentment in a prison. On the contrary, the writer has the unusual ability to find joy even in the cool night air and the distant trees and mountains. Then he expresses doubt about the worth and value of his writings.

The author attempts to reconstruct the history of the world from prehistoric times to the present. Nehru claims that he began with a narrative about the discovery of fire and agriculture and expanded his writings to include historical facts about empires and different civilizations. He wonders if midway had lost sight of the greatest human challenges:

Unraveling the mystery of the universe. He has written about civilizations that come and go, but somewhere along the way, he missed delving into human quest to understand the world through which men travel.

He follows a man on his long journey to learn about the world. Man's greatest asset in his mind, which aids him in his quest. Nehru's skepticism fades once he begins writing about man's quest. When he writes, he feels close to his daughter as if they were sitting together and talking. He discusses the 2 approaches to understanding the world: Religion and Science. Religion, according to him, seeks to impose its own views based on faith and spiritual beliefs, whereas science seeks answers through experiment and reason. There can be no single answer to what man seeks because his quest has taken 2 distinct paths understanding himself and nature. Religion examines man's inner nature, whereas science examines man's outer nature. Both are important, but Nehru prefers the scientific approach because it is rational and open-minded, unlike religion which is dogmatic. Man, on the other hand, is misusing science rather than harnessing its power, almost to the point of destroying the civilizations that he built.

Nehru used a simple, direct and conversational style to present serious subject matter relating to the human quest for knowledge in his letter "the quest of man". Nehru goes beyond dates and facts in this letter, focused on man's inside desire to know and understand the world around him. Despite the fact that Nehru's letters were intended only for his daughter, they form a well-knit series of world history for every reader to a savoir. The review synthesizes findings from the literature about the impact of father involvement on children's literacy and language outcomes. Various proximal and distal factors influence levels of father's involvement in literacy activities, and father's contribution to

language and development. Father's education, income level, residence status, and relationship with the child's mother were indirect factors associated with children's literacy and language outcomes. Fathers also made unique, direct contributions to their children's literacy and language outcomes through the use of complex language, engagement in reading activities, and responsive parenting behaviors. This concludes by identifying the gaps in the literature about other important contextual factors that may influence father involvement and about specific types of literacy activities that fathers engage in with their children. As a part of understanding and operationalization of fatherhood and father involvement have changed overtime. Fatherhood has always been a multifaceted concept, although overtime the dominant or defining motive has shifted in turn from moral guidance to bread nurturance. As a result of these changing concepts, the extent of father involvement has been viewed and indexed in different ways at different times. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, at a time when societal concerns about the effects of fatherlessness were coming to the fore, social scientists also became much more interested in quantification of concepts such as father involvement, motivated in part by the emergence and popularity in time-use methodologies. This prompted a shift from a

focus on qualitative dimensions (such as masculinity and dominance) to qualitative dimensions (the amount of time spent by father's. with their children). This led to a restricted focus on paternal nurturance with little attention paid to other functions or aspects of fatherhood. The narrowly focused view of fatherhood that resulted , ignored subcultural variation in the definition and understanding of fatherhood. Social scientists are only now beginning to seek a broader and more inclusive understanding of fatherhood- efforts that should permit more insightful research: On the effects of variations in performance of the relevant roles. The father's involvement studied by the United states :-1) How our cultures shape how we feel about father-child relations ;2) Factor's cross- cultural studies have been identified as being associated with high levels of father involvement;3)The different roles of father's during the 120,000 years of human history and 4) How biology and male reproductive interest influence father involvement.

Conclusion

There are no dynamic, static, flat or round characters in "letter from a father to his daughter". The problem is distance and lack of freedom in India. This was mainly caused by war and trading rights. This event was a problem for him, his family back home and anyone else who was in Allahabad. This was a problem for people in Allahabad but not people in China. This tells me that Allahabad must have owed China money or something. This problem was between leaders of each country because they are responsible for making sure their country is safe at all times. This problem is a primary problem. He knew this because in the book he wrote about how they had economically deprived issues and the people need to do better about dividing certain objects among the different countries. This problem changes the character's mood.

Indira can't go back to Allahabad to see her dad because of the wars with different countries. Countries and he goes to jail have no choice but to serve his time. Jawaharlal still continues to write to his daughter about the different religions he is noticing. In the book "Aryan's came to India and taught the great epic". But explains it to his daughter can understand.

This book was published in 1929. When he was leading India. The lesson I learned from this story is don't take and not give back because that causes multiple issues. This story is a great book of knowledge. His daughter Indira learns that there is more life than what you see now. The main idea of this novel is that each letter that Nehru wrote to his daughter was to give the aspects of what he was going through but he made sure she understood even though she is around 10 years old at that time. At the end of story every aspect of letters he wrote to her had a meaning and he states "although they were written long

ago, every child in Indian should be influenced by them".

The story taught me how everything has an outcome to it. Life is like a deck of cards and you have to play by the rules, you decide to cheat there consequences to your actions. Be careful of how you go about things, don't steal because you don't have. You have to work for everything you want and need.

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