

Indian Dream

Dr. Santosh Dharma Rathod

IDOL, University of Mumbai

S/he's a dunderhead who said,

“Education brightens

And changes one's life.”

I've lost bullock

And all four acres.

I've only implements

And old parents left.

Father expected me

To learn basic

Alphabets and Arithmetic

To take on moneylender,

Banker, agri-officer, trader

By the time

My tender hands could handle

reins, ropes, posts

My shoulder could bear

spray pumps,

My head could hold

loads of gunnysacks.

One day a headmaster

of a vernacular school

said to my father,

“Your son is brilliant.

Let him continue till tenth.

He can support himself.”

My father's chest swelled with pride.

To obey him he somehow tried.
But, in my life
no light, no illumination
Only only expectation and anticipation.
Then came the principal
followed by a teacher
And said, "Don't leave college.
You've bright future."
I quoted them to my father
Who said, "We can educate you
For we are still strong."
As I graduated
I came to know two liars:
One who wanted me
For saving his vernacular school,
And the other for protecting his surplus teacher.
Then I thought this realization I had
may be what the dunderhead meant by
the-education-brightens-and-changes-one's-life.
With clear conscience
I applied for a suitable post.
The employer demanded donation.
We sold everything to raise capital.
Now the third liar says to me,
"Let the employee,
your competitor, pay up
Then you'll be refunded."