

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India has remarked that the children of today are the citizens of tomorrow. This reminds us that potential can, and should, be recognized and tapped at an early stage of life. This will ensure that we have a bright future to look forward to. That is why it is crucial to look at the roots when it comes to literature also.

Children's literature is a term that encompasses a vast area and it consists of books written for, of, and by children. It is now recognized as an important field of study, both in itself and for the insights it yields into family life, society and, importantly, into the minds of the children influenced by it.

Many studies have been carried out, in many parts of the world, to analyse the impact of fairy tales on children. The results obtained from most of these studies justify the attention currently being paid to fairy tales. Fairy tales have outlived the confines of geography as well as those of time.

This study has attempted to delve into the world of fairy tales. Even the limited area that was focused on has provided ample proof of the complex heritage and the immense impact that are unique to fairy tales.

Fairy tales have always had their influence on all sections of society. They are indeed pleasurable as well as edifying. There are many positive uses to which these tales can be put. Fairy tales can reinforce the reading habit among children. It was found that the children who read fairy tales became good users of language and had a broader outlook on life. Many of them became good writers in their own right. The tales written by most child writers showed the marked influence of the rich culture of fairy tales that they had inherited.

We can come to the conclusion that if children are to be neither addicts of fantasy nor precocious pedants, they must read fairy tales in balanced proportion to other types of reading. Then these old tales may serve as a wholesome antidote to the tight literalness of the modern world. The magic of these popular tales is good magic for children to grow up with, because it will be absorbed presently into their system and will become part of their adult strength.