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Representation Of Contemporary Indian Society In The Novels Of Arvind Adiga And Vikas Swarup

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ABSTRACT

The study is intended because it helps to expand the sense of understanding the intensity of the issue under conversation as this conversation is important. It sharpens and brings accuracy to the understanding of literary endeavor and even brought interest in literature. Clubbing the chosen writers together for comparison may lead to understanding the universality of human behaviour as well as experience about their life and how they lead their life. The comparison provides scope for granting individuality into generalization and to understand in better way. The selected Indian writers of Indian fictional writing in English have different approaches to take a look at the difficulties of contemporary Indian society. However, they carry a collective contemporary consciousness as they are aware of their problems. The remarks brought forth on the basis of comparison are more acceptable, authentic, reliable and valid and even accepted by all. For that reason, a comparative study is necessary to acquaint the contemporary generation having the problems emerging due to rapidly changing societal consciousness and this gives the best result out of it.

This research work focuses mainly on Arvind Adiga's and Vikas Swarup's selected fictions, who have been mainly concerned with the problems of contemporary Indian Society which has portrayed the society or individual dilemmas or current major issues in India. The Indian society has evolved through the ages, and advancements have taken place in diverse fields. However, in every society, there are socio-cultural issues that need to be addressed and tackled. Security of people, particularly of the vulnerable sections, such as women, children and the elderly people is a major concern in the contemporary Indian society. These fictional writers are deeply attached to their contemporary Indianness, and they depict Indian social realism in their fictional works. Their close observations of contemporary Indian cultures are quite engaging to win many prestigious awards and their fictions are praised not only in India but also recognized world-wide. Both the Indian fictional writers in English sought to find words and forms to fit their experiences and observations. They have chosen narrative strategies like the novels, and the short stories to do so to write what they are feeling deeply attached to the real Indian common consciousness.

I. Introduction

This introduction gives detail survey of Indian writing in English, short history of fictional writing in English, major Indian fictional writers in English and their works. Researcher has discussed comparative study with major fictional works through this first chapter. Through this research work, researcher will discuss major and minor fiction works of selected writers.

In this, researcher gets review of literature on Arvind Adiga's and Vikas Swarup's all fictional works and finds and compares common and uncommon contemporary social issues to successive points.

II: Thematic Representation and Social Issues in Contemporary Indian Society

This topic attempts to find common and uneven themes and evaluate comparatively between Arvind Adiga's 'The White Tiger', 'Last man in the Tower' and Vikas Swarup's 'Q & A', 'Six Suspects'. India has been represented, among others, as a country of filth, poverty, crime, illiteracy, prostitution, identity crisis, inequality, population explosion and corruption. Through the initial study, researcher finds out that many themes were taken by both the writers in their selected works about representation of contemporary Indian society.

In the novel 'The White Tiger', Arvind Adiga focused on major themes as Globalization, Individualism, Freedom, Social class/classism etc. This novel 'The White Tiger' took the whole of India, by storm. It presented a dark and a strikingly crude image of India and its entire civilization.

Apart from that, his second work 'Last man in Tower' was published in 2011, it was the third published book and second published novel by Adiga. It tells the story of a struggle for a slice of shining Mumbai real estate. The protagonist of the novel is a retired school-teacher named Yogesh A. Murthy, who is affectionately known as Masterji. A prominent builder offers to buy out the entire apartment block. All of the occupants agree, except for Masterji. This creates a problem for the builder and the other residents. 'Last Man in Tower' focuses on light and dark India. The story revolves around the lives of the people who live in Vishram Society. There is much to say regarding the people who live there. The Vishram society consists of many old people and surprisingly young people too.

On the other hand, Vikas Swarup's first novel 'Q & A' deals with major themes as Slums, Poverty, and Exploitation', whereas Love, Friendship and fate are the other themes those are woven in the narrative. He highlighted corruption, brutality, and venality. He explored the rapidly developing Indian Society and its abundant social problems. Problems like the widening economic disparity through the neutral observation of Ram. Swarup's 'Q & A' shows the protagonist taken from the slum, who hasn't parented by birth. As a culture of Indian people, they always believe in fate. Swarup uses an unusual format to develop the narratives. In the novel, the orphan, illiterate poor boy wins a quiz competition to become rich through a reality show. Swarup

adapted uncommon format as a reality show to visualize twenty-first century India. It recounts to the account of a destitute server in Mumbai who turns into the most significant test show champ ever. It recounts chapter wise social and common problems like slums from the cities, scarcity, bribery, page 3 worlds, and abuses of national rules, exploitation of kids as well as women. Accurate knowledge of living with logical thinking shows illiterate can become dominant. They can take over all capitalist. 'Q & A' is a positive sign like never-give-up and work hard to achieve success. Therefore, every poor struggles hard to reach destiny. It is the real culture of India, shown by Swarup through his novel.

In his second novel 'Six Suspects', he has depicted murder and corruption, power of politics, evil in politics and struggle for Identity. In short, this novel represents the mirrors of contemporary and multi-ethnic India. 'Six Suspects', published in 2008, is a crime thriller. He wrote it while he was in India. Like the first novel, it also turned out to be the best seller and has been interpreted in more than 30 different languages. It is about the investigation of the murder of a youngster, Vicky Rai, who himself was liable for a few violations. There are six personalities under suspects: a civil servant, a corrupt MLA, a juvenile pickpocket, a man from America, a tribal from the remote island of Andaman, and a Movie Actress. It is well organized but a complex narrative with considerable depictions of Indian society.

This novel offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of modern India. It narrates various division of national culture. It shows the corrupt political system with subtle, serious issues. It dissects and castigates the corrupt governmental bureaucratic structure with the disappointment of the general public towards malpractice. It hints at a revolution of the have-nots who will finally overthrow constitutional structures.

Through this point, researcher has done comparison between the selected works of Arvind Adiga and Vikas Swarup in the concern of thematic representation and social issues in contemporary Indian society.

III : Cultural Representation in Contemporary India

Every nation has its own culture and India has diversified cultural entity since old period. India has seen diversity of religion, language, geography, culture and so on.

Cultural encounters challenge ideas about cultural homogeneity and the unchanging nature of traditions and society. Any cultural encounter will automatically pose questions about identity. In 'The White Tiger', the novelist portrays Indian society that is transforming due to western influence and the rural India that is not able to cope with this change, finds itself trapped, suffocated, neglected and at the verge of revolt. Balram, the downtrodden protagonist of the novel not only revolts as a result of this cultural encounter, but manages to improve his fate by becoming an entrepreneur defying all social and economic conventions of India. This research work analyses various dimensions of cultural encounters in the novel 'The White Tiger'.

Adiga's 'Last Man in Tower' offers a three-dimensional view of contemporary urban India. The reader's eyes are permanently opened to some unpleasant truths that must not be glossed over while building the grand narrative of developed India. The novel has universal implications. In Indian culture, the banyan tree is a symbol of resilience, liberation, growth, compassion, and the wisdom of selfless giving. And looking at the tree, Adiga concludes: "Nothing can stop a living thing that wants to be free."

The Nature or super power has created many creatures on the Earth. Other creatures don't have any kind of discrimination. They live life as per the law of nature. But human being started to differentiate each other in several aspects such as caste discrimination, colour discrimination, gender discrimination, racism, socio-economical discrimination etc. Racism is the major problem of European Countries but socio-economical discrimination is the universal problem. It is always found that the reflection of society and social structure is the part of literature. Talking about India, Indian literature has a rich heritage with numerous regional languages as well as it is available in English also. Nineteenth and twentieth century has seen an emerging change in Indian English literature. Rabindranath Tagore to recent writers as Mahesh Dattani, Vikas Swarup and many more have contributed their writings in English. They all tried their best to represent the socio-cultural structure of India. Vikas Swarup is the one who represented the socio-economical discrimination of India. The best example of this representation is his novel Q&A. the current work is an attempt to focus on Vikas Swarup's novel Q & A and representation of socio-economical discrimination.

Through this topic, researcher has done comparison between the selected works of Arvind Adiga and Vikas Swarup in the concern of cultural representation in contemporary India.

IV: Individual Dilemma (Existential Struggle) in Contemporary Indian Society

Arvind Adiga, the contemporary Indian novelist is undoubtedly one of the outstanding figures in the realm of post-modern literature. He achieved this position through his masterpiece 'The White Tiger' which brought him the 2008 Man Booker Prize for fiction. His novels are preoccupied with such emerging issues like globalization, urbanization, rich and poor divide, social disparity, techno culture, corruption, erosion of human relations and moral values. By fusing postmodern techniques of meta fiction, dark humour, parody, pastiche, binary and multiple narrative voices with the prevailing issues of consumerism, materialism, deterioration of moral values, Adiga sensitively captivates the readers' nerve. It is because of this sensitivity towards the changing realities that Adiga writes in tune with the global changes. The White Tiger is a story about the existential and class struggle of the protagonist. A neo-liberal country like India widens the gap between the rich and poor with its pro-capitalist, free-market policies that privilege a few.

'Last Man in Tower' (2011) can be shown as the stubborn fight of one man against his times. It is set in the maximum city of Mumbai, where the future is defined by big businessmen and progress is measured in terms of skyscrapers. The protagonist, Yogesh A. Murthy, alias "Masterji", a retired schoolteacher with more

than the prescribed levels of idealism, finds himself out of touch with the increasingly practical and materialistic society around him. On the other hand it is focusing on the survival strategies adopted by ordinary men and women amid the ambivalence and emptiness in modern India that are the mainstay of the text.

In 'Q&A', Swarup shows that, an orphan boy lives in harsh conditions is one of the most common plots of individual dilemma. In the novel, 'Q& A', Ram lives in the slums of Mumbai with agony and helplessness. Mumbai was depicted as a wasteland with over one million people living under no circumstances of ventilation and fighting for everything essential for living in the greasy swampy area. Ram, in his journey of life sets goals for himself and envisions himself one day being considerably Rich. Swarup builds the psychological intelligence of the character Ram through the interpretation of society. Ram is an ordinary street-smart boy adapted to the society which doesn't need expensive schooling and education for it. This intelligence makes him desperately to escape from Sethiji along with Salim. He is optimistic and believes in no religion but continues to help others and do good which paved his destiny turn upside down and luck heralded him.

In Six Suspects, Swarup returns with an equally high-concept tale that uses a murder investigation to launch a riotous tour of contemporary India. Here, Swarup shows that how major characters find individual dilemma and change their survival strategies through situation to situation as Vivek (Vicky) Rai a notorious son of Jagannath Rai, Home Minister of Uttar Pradesh. The Delhi police identify six suspects: corrupt womanizer Mohan Kumar; Shabnam Saxena, a sizzling actress; Hollywood adult-film producer Rick Myers; cell-phone thief Munna Mobile; Eketi Onge, member of a vanishing tribe from an island in the Bay of Bengal; and Jagannath Rai himself.

Through this topic, researcher has done comparison between the selected works of Arvind Adiga and Vikas Swarup in the concern of individual dilemma (existential struggle) in contemporary Indian society.

V: Conclusion

In the conclusion, it may be said that both the novelist Arvind Adiga and Vikas Swarup have triggered the key issues of the Indian society like the universality of human behaviour as well as experience about their life and how they lead their life. The Indian society has evolved through the ages, and advancements have taken place in diverse fields. However, in every society, there are socio-cultural issues that need to be addressed and tackled. Security of people, particularly of the vulnerable sections, such as women, children and the elderly people is a major concern in the contemporary Indian society.

This research paper will definitely help the Government of India to frame policies for common people of the society so as to meet their social, economical, educational, cultural and psychological needs.

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