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## **Study on Social Issues in The Arundhati Roy's Novels**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Arundhati Roy is an Indian novelist, social campaigner, cultural critic and a popular political figure who has been fighting a non-violent war through words and protest against violence done to the human beings all over the world. The God of Small Things deals with the horrors of the gender discrimination in India and how women in general are marginalized and oppressed at the hands of patriarchy. The novelist gives exposure to the caste difference, gender discrimination, colour and racial distinctions through social institutions and she strongly professes how they influence human relations and individual behaviour of people. The old traditions gave rise to rebellious thoughts and Roy has raised a voice of protest through her characters and the way injustice is done to these socially downtrodden people because of their gender is emphatically portrayed.*

**Keywords:** *Gender Discrimination, Patriarchy, Male-dominated Society, Marginalised*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Arundhati Roy did not share any information about her forthcoming second novel these twenty years. An American writer Marilynne Robinson also paused for almost 25 years after her brilliant debut novel *Housekeeping* published in 1980. The novel was finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. But it was only her second novel *Gilead* which gave her this Prize when it appeared in 2004. Marilynne won prizes after prizes for her many subsequent novels *HOME* 2008, *Lila* (2014) Robinson's essays and her fiction writing are as part of her creative and intellectual identity.

Sometimes a more straight forward matter of a writer like a British Pakistani Nadeem Aslam in writing his novel *Maps for Lost Lovers* took 10 years to complete it, not because of any existential crisis, but because he was meticulous and hardworking. It took him 5 years to get the opening chapter right.

In the case of Arundhati Roy, whose debut novel *The God of Small Things* won the Booker Prize in 1997, she was more busy in the intervening period of two decades, with protesting against ecological depredations. Protesting on behalf of Kashmir independence and against Hindu nationalism as well as fighting charges of sedition laid against her by the Indian government rather than doing any creative work.

It is a different matter altogether that her prolific career as a writer of non-fiction, from 2002 *The Algebra of Infinite Justice* to books on capitalism, globalization and democracy gave her life meaning. But her creative work suffered as she had little time for it.

Roy's second novel *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (2017) turned out to be more an experimental work than her first novel "The God of Small Things" whose radical reputation was for in excess of its structure and style. Within a few weeks of its publication *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* found itself on the long-list of Booker Prize Judging Panel but missed even the nomination in the final round.

### **The subjects**

Novel arrangements with different subjects. First topic is the consistently overwhelming ever present caste framework in Indian social framework and the vindictive impacts of it on the individuals who are conceived in the lower caste. The second subject that this novel arrangements with is the unbridgeable hole between poor people and the rich or special and unprivileged individuals of India. The novelist is worried about the caste and class clashes in the financial and political existence of Indians.

Novelist likewise uncovered the tricky lead of the Indians in local social and political fields of life. Children Kochamma, Pappachi, Mammachi, Chacko abuseed Ammu just on the grounds that she had hitched Babu subtly. They neglected to understand that they were halfway liable for her urgency. Had they given her due thought at home, she would not have dove into challenges.

Another distinctive case of false reverence in the novel is Chacko. He removes his better half Margaret for her unfaithfulness to him without peeping into his very own heart. He had intercourse with numerous woman working in his pickle manufacturing plant of which he was glad. He couldn't process indecent connection among Ammu and Velutha yet expected Ammu to support his brave sexual propensities.

### **Point of View**

Despite the fact that the novel is commonly recommended as story, *The God of Small Things* is described through the eyes of the third individual, Rahel. Rahel as a multi year old kid brings youngster's creative mind and prescience into invasion. The surroundings are seen through a youthful personality. It likewise brings a kid method of reasoning, innovative touch and silliness

to the story. Novelist's procedure can likewise be considered from the eyes of a twenty multi year old who has been denied of basics during her youth.

### **Narrative Technique**

Novel isn't described in consecutive example. The flashbacks are joined with streak forward. An intricate methodology is finished the headlines in the novel and the synchronization of the memory viewpoint is used to correspond them through the eyes of the storyteller Rahel. The creator could obtain a lot of deftly through this methodology. It helped her in organizing the novel.

The creator utilizes method of prescience to make the component of riddle. The loss of Sophie Mol gauges occasions and circumstances before the genuine circumstance happens. The creator embraces this system to make strain and frenzy by inducing the component of creative mind and expectation.

Friend Pillais wonder was deceptive. He wouldn't fret Velutha nearness in the political assembly. He had no issue with Velutha's enrollment in the gathering. Gathering bragged its comprehensive nature because of Velutha's affiliation

### **Language of the novel**

The core of any novel is its language. A characteristic progression of words resembles what tops off an already good thing a nation like India, English is a broadly acknowledged language and it is a free streaming language for the vast majority of the locals. One of the critical highlights of present day Indian novels is the clarity in portrayal.

Roy opens her novel with: "May in Ayemenem is a hot, agonizing month. The days are long and moist. The waterway therapists and dark crows gorge on splendid mangoes in still, dust green trees. Red bananas mature. Jackfruits burst. Lewd bluebottles murmur vacuously in the fruity air. At that point they stagger themselves against clear windowpanes and pass on, fatly puzzled in the sun."

At the point when one peruses these lines in the opening, one gets the vibe of the things to pursue. Roy depicts the repulsive state of Velutha's body in the accompanying words:

"His skull was broken in three spots. His nose and the two his cheekbones were crushed, leaving his face thick, indistinct. The hit to his mouth had part open his upper lip and broken six teeth, three of which were inserted in his lower lip, revoltingly transforming his lovely grin. Four of his ribs were chipped; one had punctured his left lung, which was what caused him to seep from his mouth. The blood on his breath brilliant red Fresh Frothy.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

B.R RajanIyer's well known novel VasavadattaShastri, showed up in PrabhuddhaBharata from 1896-1898. Mr. SamualSattinathan and Mrs.Kamala Sattianathan, composed accounts of Indian Christian life as a team with Behramji Malabari and NageshVishwanathPai's – their novel is Gujarth and the Gujarthis (1882). Indian English Novelists gave their hands a shot assortment of subjects social, chronicled and sentimental. They attempted to uncover on a very basic level the Ramayana and the Mahabharatha into English. He composed six novels in Bengali. Additionally he composed two novels in English. The absence of palms (1902) and the Slave young lady of Agra (1909), Nasreen (1915), Kamala (1925) and Kamini (1931), Bal Krishna composed a social novel Love of Kusum (1910). His novels are 1001 Indian Nights (1905), The ruler of Destiny (1909). S.P Banerjee's Tales of Bengal (1910). Indian Detective stories and so forth. Madhaviah-Nanda The Pariah who Overcome Caste (1923)

Madhu Benoit in her 2006 book on Arundhati Roy's narrative technique calls it by her deconstructive reading "fragmented temporal structure with it polyphonic narrative voices" which she says. "compels the reader to reconstruct the text much as she/he would piece together a jigsaw puzzle as the story of three generations unfolds." The novel's 'ending is open or ambiguous leaving us in doubt as to the destiny of the characters. However, the most important in Roy's technique is that she eschews the straight and chronological ordering of her material and uses a reliable or omniscient and intrusive narrator. She employs multiple points of view while dealing with multiple social realities, tending toward complex and fluid handing of time which involves much cross reference back and forward across the temporal span of action. "Time is super-imposed in layers, each layer leaving unobliterable traces that confuse perception of the whole. 'MadhuBinoit' clarified the technique further in the same book. We have in simple words time-frames throughout in the novel.

Elizabeth outka in her essay "Trauma and Temporal hybrid in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* comments that are technique is often bewildering mix of different times, stories, sensations from the past blend together with the present moments, temporal blending and taken as a feature which reflects the novel's magical realism, or postcolonialism, or postmodernism which are all associated with various forms of time play. True, as writers from Marcel Proust, James Joyce to Virginia woolf to Salman Rushdie remind us that time is always, to some extent, a mixture of complex amalgamation and negotiation of past moments.

Even while commenting on the structure and the style of the novel in an interview to the correspondent of "*The Hindu*" in New Delhi on June 2, 2017 Roy said "The Novel is not a story with a beginning, middle and an end as much as a map of a city or a building. Or like the structure of a classical "Raga" where you have these notes and you keep exploring them from different angles, in different ways, different ups and different downs." Her comments are inviting

but the success of her technique is suspect. In our analysis of the novel later we will find that her art has failed, because like the pamphleteer has subsumed the novelist.

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838-1993), composed an English novel *Raj Mohan's Wife*. He is the principal incredible essayist of current Bengali exposition. His Bengali novels – *Kapalakundala*, *DurgeshNandini* and *Krishna Kanta's* were converted into English. Toru Dutt composed *Bianca or the Young Spanish Maiden*, Published on sequential premise in the *Bengal Magazine*, January, April, 1879. Lal Behari Day is chip away at *Bengal worker life* (1880), K Chakravathy's – work is *Sarala and Hingana* (1898), B.R RajanIyer's well known novel *VasavadattaShastri*, showed up in *PrabhuddhaBharata* from 1896-1898. Mr. SamualSattinathan and Mrs.KamalaSattianathan, composed accounts of Indian Christian life as a team with Behramji Malabari and NageshVishwanathPai's – their novel is *Gujarth and the Gujarthis* (1882).

Roy in her personal life writes for the innocent people who die for the cruel decisions of the state's upper-class people. A good example can be shaped by the incident of 'Pulwama attack'. In the novel Roy exhibits the situation of how young boys are being brain washed and used "by Pakistan to bleed India". It is something Roy terms as "Prick and Bleed policy". A real life fact about 'Pulwama Attack' in Kashmir is reflected in the novel. It shows the wrong happenings in between India and Kashmir because of unawareness of the political parties. Roy states her opinion about this matter in her article, "Our Captured, Wounded Hearts: Arundhati Roy on Balakot, Kashmir And India" in *HuffPost* which is an opinion based website and blog.

She contributed her accounts to the nineteenth century and to *Macmillan's Magazine*. Those accounts were gathered in three volumes – *Love and Life behind the Purdha* (1901), *Sun Babies* (1904). Every one of her accounts are social investigations and manage the life of woman and their condition in Indian houses. Another essayist is Maharani Sunity Debi's *Bengal Dacoits and the Tiger* (1916), manages energizing occurrences in the lives of Bengali individuals who are constantly laid by dacoits. Towards the finish of nineteenth Century and the start of the twentieth Century Marxism, the philosophical idea that concentrated on the libertarian standards enlivened 33% of the complete populace of the world.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To examine the study of Arundhati Roy's novels.
2. A study of Social issues raised by Arundhati Roy in her novels.
3. To study the gender discrimination in the novels of Arundhati Roy.
4. To study the strong determination of the characters in the novels.

## **CONCLUSION**

Gender study has a wide range of structures. One view communicated by Simon-de-Beauvoir is: "One isn't conceived as a lady yet rather gets one". Today Gender contemplates is a field of interdisciplinary investigation which examinations race, ethnicity, sexuality and area. In the present conjuncture, feminism in India reacts to the gendered signs of caste disparity through its reorientation towards social change on a populist premise. As indicated by researchers like Anupama Rao this would include a revaluation of caste, class, gender relations so as to recommend that understanding the changing appearances of caste is basic to the comprehension of the specific structures in which gender disparity and sexed subjection are created and grounded.

The principle center is to comprehend the social and mystic component that develops and sustains gender disparity and changes it, however much as could be expected. The present investigation endeavours an examination of the portrayal of social discrimination, socio-social edges of caste, class and gender in Indian setting underway of significant social novels in Indian English fiction particularly in progress of Mulk Raj Anand, Kamala Markandaya, Arundhati Roy and AravindAdiga

It is accepted that present research study is certainly going to open up another vistas of understanding which rises out of the healthy investigation of separation based on caste, class and gender. It makes certain to include information from a new point of view and will encourages the extent of its examination and can stretch out to different parts of information

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