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**ARVIND ADIGA'S 'THE WHITE TIGER' A PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIAL EVILS**

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**Abstract:**

*Arvind Adiga is one of the most provoking writers of modern India. He tries to focus on the miserable plights of the downtrodden or the poor in modern society. He writes for the welfare of human beings. He manifests rendering evils of Indian society in the 21st century. His only aim is to voice against such evils like corruption, politics, social status and bribes. Arvind Adiga's 'The White Tiger', a man Booker prize novel, is a novel of social evils that are prevalent in modern Indian society. It attacks poverty and inequality with unsentimental approaches. The novel focuses on the current Indian condition of the poor where there is no means of happiness in their life. The novelist presents a realistic picture of the poor, living in Indian culture. It shows the violent and aggressive impact of authority on the poor in contemporary society. The novel depicts the character of Balram who tries to live a life of freedom but he becomes the victim of poverty and injustice. Through this novel 'The White Tiger' Adiga wants to create social awareness towards each community in India.*

**Keywords:** *Provoking, Manifest, Heart-Redeeming, Inequity, Victims*

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It is said that whatever a writer feels or sees in his life, he tries to present his work in a very realistic manner. Arvind Adiga is also such a writer who shows the mirror to human society. He was born in a poor family and naturally he tried to seek out the unanswerable problems of India people and depicted the dark gloom life of human beings in Indian society where they were compelled to live. His three major novels-The White Tiger, Between The Assassinations and Last Man In Tower are the remarkable novels of his creative excellence. His intellect is clearly seen in his writings. His novels are full of humanity and his motive is only to seek out the remedy against the social evils like hunger, starvation, exploitation and corruption that are seen everywhere in modern India. He shows his unappetizing attitude in his novels. His characters are the victims of social and political authoritative looks.

Arvind Adiga is a novelist of enlightenment in Indian English literature. He does not hesitate to present the miserable and pathetic situations of the low cost people who are under the impoverished condition. The sophisticated life of these poor people fills his heart with enormous sympathy and he wants the sympathetic

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behavior of Indian people towards such victims. They should not be deprived of those happiness as the others have. They also want liberty and freedom in their life that are their right.

No doubt the economic growth of India has been progressing rapidly in comparison with America but it is regrettable that the condition of the poor people in India has not changed after a century. This is so because the wages of the workers in the forms and factories are not on the basis of their labor and they are getting only starvation wages. Arvind Adiga deals with this inequality in this novel *The White Tiger*. He persists on such exploitation done by the high society on the poor people of India who are living under starvation and poverty and they have to bear these devastating situations in their lives day by day.

Adiga's main motive is to present the realistic condition of the poor in modern society. He points out that these poor people are always ready to build the home for the wealthy people. In spite of this they are compelled to live in tents covered with blue tarpaulin sheets, surrounded by filth and dirt.

*The White Tiger* is the story of every modern Indian. Balram Halwai who is the protagonist lives in a small village of Bihar named Lakshmanpur in the Darkness. In the beginning of the novel, we see that Balram wrote a letter to the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in seven consecutive nights. He expressed as being a son of a rickshaw puller, how he became a successful entrepreneur during the emergence of his life. Balram's excitement to learn driving made him successful in this practice with the help of Ashok who is the son of the local landlord the Stork. When he came back to his village he did not pay respect to his grandmother and it was told to the readers and also the Chinese Premier that he indulged to kill his boss in the next 8 months while he moved to New Delhi accompanied with Ashok and his wife Pinky Madam, he frequently talked about the prevailing corruption in the society having involved the government. Adiga gives the graphic details of the discrimination between the poor and wealthy people of New Delhi juxtaposition of the wealthy people with the poor dwellers of the city.

The story takes a twist when Pinky Madam becomes adamant to drive the car herself and unfortunately she hits something. She becomes upset because a child was hit by her. Occasionally the family charges Balram for this happening and runs. The role of police is not active and tells them the report was not written on the missing child, therefore no case is filed for the further enquiry. Here we observe that Ashok takes a rapid involvement with the corrupt government. Balram realizes that this is the only way to escape through India's 'Rooster Coop'. It will be the only thing by killing and robbing Ashok. And he gets a chance to murder Ashok, hit by a broken bottle. However he tries to manage everything and is ready to run for Bangalore accompanied by his young nephew. He very shrewdly manipulates the police and gives bribes to the police so that he may start his own driving service. In the end of the novel, he observes his actions and explains that the worst lives of Ashok and his family, is the main source of his freedom and once again given a chance to service in his new taxi company.

There are several themes in this novel. Globalization becomes the major subject of the plot of the novel. The use of technology is taking place in the life of human beings that leads to globalization. It has been observed in India also. The impact of westernization is also seen in the novel where Balram alters his caste. The novel also deals with the anglicization in India.

The present scenario of Indian poors depicts the economic crisis. Adiga becomes successful by creating the character of the protagonist, Balram. Despite his intellect, he could not get proper education in his childhood. Due to poverty his father died of tuberculosis because he hadn't enough money for the proper treatment of his father and Arvind Adiga focuses on the major problem of the society for the better treatment of the patient but

the poor feel helpless because they pass their lives under poverty. It is also seen when the poor patients are admitted in the government hospital, they are not given proper care because of a shortage of doctors in India. The novelist points out clearly when the doctors are appointed at government hospitals like the social activists, how they indulged in corruption and demand for money and the unqualified doctors are appointed in government hospitals by providing bribes. This is the main cause of deteriorating condition of the government hospitals. The following lines are the marvelous example to clear this point:

Kishan and I carried our father in, stamping on the goat turds which had spread like a constellation of black stay on the ground. There was no doctor in the hospital. The ward boy, after bribing him with ten rupees, said that a doctor might come in the evening...It's not safe, in the room that cat has tasted blood... There's a government medical superintendent who's meant to check the doctor's visit in village hospitals like this. Now each time the post falls vacant, the Great socialist let's all the big doctors know that he's having an open auction for the post. The going rate for this post is about 400 rupees these days. (Singh,2009).

The White Tiger highlights the heinous disharmony and discriminations prevailing in the present Indian society and also shows the belief in western culture, adopted in Indian society. No doubt The White Tiger is the protest to make justice in delineating social injustice prevalent in India. The whole novel creates an excitement to learn the hidden problems of the poor villagers of the society and also the object of insult and hatred in contemporary society.

Arvind Adiga describes the miserable plight of the poor people accurately and minutely. He points out the major issues which have emerged in democratic atmosphere and the power of the administrative level. The people have no right to live freely and they are bound to live in the darkness. Corruption and oppression is widespread in modern society. They are pressured to struggle hard for their basic requirements like food and home.

This is the stupendous learning of Arvind Adiga that he gets success in depicting the several problematic issues like the colonialism in the name of jamidhari, social reservation, caste discrimination, cultural boundaries, bureaucratic system, role of corruption in politics, financial crisis, superstition, lack of education, natural catastrophes, all these things add the suffering of the poor villagers.

In this way Arvind Adiga gets success in presenting the contrast between India's rise and the environment of globalization in economics and the plight of the downtrodden class of society who are living on the verge of rural and urban poverty. He describes the several issues which affect our society and shows the maltreatment of the people in democratic Indian society. Adiga focuses on the two major benefits of democracy- liberty and equality. On the other hand the unchanging attitude of the rich people gradually destroys human liberty and equality. No doubt corruption takes the fatal shape which destroys human feelings.

Adiga is a writer of thought provoking. Whatever he sees, he gives graphic details in the novel. He is able to delineate the realistic picture of our nation and its classes. Adiga himself says, "Please understand you're excellent, that India is two countries in one: an India of Light and an India of Darkness. The ocean brings light to my country. Every place on the map of India near the ocean is well off but the river brings darkness to India, the black river". (2008, p- 14).

Adiga realizes the poignant conditions of the poor in contemporary Indian society. He presents the pitiable condition of the poor people who are suffering from poverty and hunger. Priyanka Pasari says, "The White Tiger is a novel born in that infinitesimal moment of Darkness and as a debit, it marks the arrival of a storyteller who strikes a fine balance between the sociology of the wretched place he has chosen as home and the twisted humanism of the outcast." (Pesari, 2015, p-2). Adiga tries to penetrate into the heartcore of the poor people who have to face the mal treatment of the richest without any fault. He presents the realistic scenario of village or rural life in the following lines:

"Electricity poles- defunct. water tap- broken. Children -too lean and short for their age with oversized heads from which lived eyes shine, like the guilty existence of the Government of India." (2008, p-19-20).

Adiga describes the life of the rickshaw pullers through the character of Balram. They are very weak and unhealthy by pulling and paddling the rickshaw. Adiga tells, ".....thin, sick like man, leaning forward from the seat of bicycle, as they pedal along a carriage bearing a pyramid of middle class flesh- some fat man with his fat wife and all their shopping bags and groceries." (2008, p-27).

Adiga is a writer of social awareness. He sees every event with great sympathy attitude. He does not want to ignore the terror of naxalites. In an incident Balram describes the scene when the son of the landlord of the village was kidnapped by the naxalite. When the landlord could not trace the kidnappers, he burnt with anger and in the state of frustration he blamed the servant who was the caretaker of his son. The servant was tortured badly and after sometime he was shot dead. His family could not escape from oppression. The landlord got his family murdered and also burnt his house on fire. Balram could not bear these inhuman behavior of the landlord and he was compelled to think of terrible incidents and he decided to set free him from the oppression and poverty. The result is that he murdered his master silently. In this way he quenched his thirst for revenge.

Balram was not unaware of the difference between the rich and the poor. He knew very well that there is no chance to go ahead with the rich. The living standard of Balram and Ashok has no similarity. Balram had to carry all the shopping bags while Ashok along with his wife, Pinky Madam visited malls without any botheration of time. The lost coin episode indicates the insulting and humiliating behavior of the rich people with the poor. It is very strange that Ashok does not care to give millions rupees in bribes and how he is much worried only for one rupee coin. In the following lines, Adiga presents a disdainful act of the rich:

"Get down on your knees, look for it on the floor of the car." I go down on my knees. I sniffed in between the mats like a dog, all in search of that one rupee." What do you mean, it's not there? Don't think that you can still be from us just because you're in the city. I want that rupee." We've just paid half a million rupees in a bribe, now we're screwing this man over for a single rupee... Where that rupee coin went remains a mystery today, Mr Premier Finally. I took a rupee coin out of my shirk pocket, dropped it on the floor of the car, picked it up and gave it to the Mongoose." (Adiga 2008, p-139).

On the other hand Adiga focuses our attention on another situation where we find Ashok wanting to get the contract of coal mines and he gives bribes to the ministers. He explains, "He made me go from one bank to another bank... He was collecting money from the cash machine - four different ones...." (2008, p-211).

Adiga's outlook for human concern does not stop him at a certain point. He had an unquenchable thirst for the depiction of suffering humanity. He does not hesitate to show the internal affairs of political leaders, bribery and blackmailing and their involvement in the ocean of corruption. In a scene, Adiga describes the pathetic

condition of the slum people. He writes, "The poor bastards had come from Darkness to Delhi to find some light but they were still in the darkness." (2008, p-138). These lines clearly depict the dark image of Indian society where there is no means of happiness for the poor people.

Adiga wants to highlight the miserable life of the people in the post colonial era in the influence of globalization. He strikes on the callous people with the satiric weapon of his writing. His writing is the clear manifestation of the social- economic condition of modern India. The following comments of Sanjay Kumar and Surjit Singh is the authentic proof of foregoing account:

"Rise of materialism, advancement of technology, materialization, social mobility, sense of cut throat competition, disloyalty, change in the norms of social institutions, alienation, extent of urbanization, globalization consumerism and so on are, some of the characteristics which constitute the mode of a new generation, causing changes in the psyche of the man of the New Era." (Kumar and Surjit Singh, 2014, p-220).

No doubt Adiga is the mouthpiece of the contemporary social, economic and scientific problems of India. His work, 'The White Tiger' is the portrait of the postcolonial society in the globalization era. Raymond Williams writes, "In a class society, there are primarily inequalities between classes. Gramsci therefore introduces the necessary recognition of dominance and subordination in what has still however to be recognized as a whole process." (Williams, 1977, p-108). Hence Arvind Adiga's novel, 'The White Tiger' is a glorious achievement in the field of English literature with several issues related to social, scientific, economic and cultural matters. Arvind Adiga is undoubtedly a novelist of social perspective.

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