



A STUDY OF SOCIAL REALISM IN INDIAN NOVEL

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ABSTRACT:

Literature emerges out of life and records dreams and ideas, hopes and aspirations, failures and disappointments, motives and passion, and experiences and observations. Over the years, literature has reflected the prevailing social issues in many eminent work of literature under the shadow of realism. In realism, Social reality is one aspect of the picture but it cannot be isolated as though it were an entity by itself. It cannot be taken out of the contend of the general cultural pattern of a period. Even there have been honest attempts to recreate incidents from great literature of the past ages. They convey truth, the truth of emotion, which is the ultimate of realism. This aspect of realism is lacking in the works of some of the writers. Realism should be truthful and honest picture of society. It should be true attempt to focus on reality with the concern to make it superior world.

Keywords: Ultime Realism, Social reality, Hopes and aspirations, realism.

INTRODUCTION:

Realism in literature is the theory or proactive of fidelity to nature, or to real life and to accurate representation without idealization of everyday life. The 18th century works of Daniel Defoe, Henry Fielding, and Tobias Smollett are among the earliest example of realism in English literature. It was consciously adopted as an aesthetic programme in France in the mid-19th century, when interest arose in rewording previously ignored aspects of contemporary life and society. The realism emphasis on detachment and objectivity, along with lucid but restrained social criticism, became integral to the novel in the late 19th century. The word has also been used critically to denote excessive minuteness of detail or preoccupation with trivial sordid, or squalid subjects. The 2th century,

prevailing models of literary criticism drew a line between realist and anti-realist literature, placing realist works on one side of the line and fantastic works on the opposite side. Despite this inherent questioning of the boundaries and construction of reality, the international literary scene has been largely uniform in its placement of magical realism in the anti-realist category, thereby opposing it to realist fiction.

Novel is fiction. Fiction and realism seem like opposites. It is not easy to separate them in a novel. However, novelists mix fiction with realism to provide delight and an insight into the facts at the same time; they tend to be fictionally realistic. New Standard Encyclopedia defines realism as 'a reorientation of objects and conditions in the way they appear to the senses as opposed to the ideal and fanciful.' The novel is a picture of real life, manners and the time in which it is written. Novel gives a familiar relation of such things as they pass every day before our eyes.

The major tradition of European fiction in the 19th century is a tradition of realism. Most of the novels are realistic. Victorian novel is characterized by realism that the novel by its very definition is a realistic prose fiction. Complete by in itself and of a certain length wherein the word 'realistic' is meant to 'indicate' relevant to real life as opposed to 'Romantic'. But there was a growing dissatisfaction among the novelists to stick to realism alone. Therefore, they have explored new fictional modes which are discussed earlier as different genres. The same thing influenced Indian novels. The novelistic like. K. S. Venkatramani Mulk Raj Anand. Raja Rao and R. K. Narayan changed the condition and adopted realism with social insight in their novels.

It is the social middle class which provided the most obvious content for the new Indian writing in English. That is why Ranga Rao's *Fowl Filcher* (1987) is able to communicate a vivid sense of rural and provincial life. But Ranga Rao still acknowledges that, "The nation itself has moved from the village centrism of the Gandhian era to the city centrism of the Post-Nehru-period."

As it is earlier said, Indian novel is strongly marked by Consciousness of the period in which it is set. Indian novel shows a unique time consciousness. The bulk of Indian English fiction since its birth has marked time with the period it chose to depict rather in an as tensions way. Tagore's *Home and the World* would not have been possible without an awareness of the terrorist

movement in Bengal during the First World War years. There is change in the scenario after independence; the novelists crave to depict the life of people with background. They found that the personal life of a man tends to be formulated by fixed patterns, loosely described as customs which are peculiar to particular castes. The novelists tended to stress the peculiarities of human's life to bring home the difference as well as aliveness of life. They treated the themes like poverty, starvation, famine, hunger, caste system, Women's position in Society and people's economic condition. Realism in art and literature is an endeavor to portray life as it is. It shows life with reality, omitting nothing that is ugly or painful, and idealizing nothing. To the realists the writer's most important function is to idealizing nothing. Describe as truthfully as possible what is observed though the sense. Realism began as a recognizable movement in art in the 18th century. By the mid-19th century, it was a principal art form. In past, realism has been an upheaval agent classicism and romanticism-artistic movements characterized by works that idealize life. Classicism shows life as being more rational and orderly than it really is; while Romanticism shows life as being more emotionally exciting and satisfying than it normally is. While it was an attempt through realism to present life as it is. 'This life as it is' is what realism is. True realism depicts man and society as complete entities instead of showing merely one or the other of their aspects. It is not just an echo but the real sound of an individual or society or joint voice of their being. Thus, it is very much true what Mulk Raj Anand, a great realist in fiction accepts that novelist must confront the total reality, including its sordidness, if one was to survive in the world of tragic contrasts between the exalted and noble vision of the blind bard Milton to encompass the eyes dimmed with tears of the many mute Miltons. Among the Indian English novelists, Mulk Raj Anand is the best example of writers who dealt with the themes of untouchability, economic inequality and social injustice. Raja Rao, Monohar Malgaonkar, R. K. Narayan. K. Nagaraj and many other novelists depicted social life in their novels. Their novels present a convincing picture of life and create an awareness of the basic values of life. There was a strain of social existence in the novels of the earlier novelists. Social Realism is not a new concept in Indian fiction.

A realistic novel is more or less not for the sake of art, but for the sake of life of an individual or a mass presented by a common character as one finds in

Dickens *Hard Times* or Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable*. Which make reality more real for the sake of life. Quite a few of the Indian English novelists try to give a graphic picture of the contemporary rural urban scene. They have, to some extent, been instrumental in adding another dimension to the awareness and insight. In a realistic novel one can easily transfer one's own identity to some of the characters and derive vicarious pleasure out of this identification. While continuing to live one's own life one shares to the full the experiences of the characters in the novel-thus enriching one's own personality. With the finding for the realism or realistic aspects of Anand, it is also very important to look into the contemporary Social, Political Religious, Traditional, Cultural and Economical issues in India. As it is a representation of the real Social Life of India, it is counted as a social document pointed with rustic brush and dipped into the colour of social and religious layers.

CONCLUSION:

The term 'Social Realism' describes both a specific approach and an overall attitude towards subject matter. Its primary goal is not to amuse but to convince the observer of the evils. It aims at the unadorned depiction of the contemporary Social life in its various aspects. Society is a fluid entity. Its truthful, historically, concrete representation with revolutionary development becomes the real depiction of social panorama.

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