

## **The Subaltern Issues in Arvind Adiga's '*The White Tiger*'**

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### **Abstract:**

The literary writings of the novelist like Arvind Adiga, Arundhati Roy Chetan Bhagat etc. speak out about the issues in India .The issues like subaltern, caste system domination misuse of power psychological slavery od women, subordination and marginalization of lower sections of society can placed in the novels. Being keen observer of the sections of society. He addressed the problems of the lower strata, poor, peasants and landless labours and small business society like richaw driver ,hawker n his' *The white Tiger*' .through his observations he paved the way for subaltern and their internal willingness to sort out their problems ,underestimation from upper class their revolt ,oppose and demand to create own existence .

This paper is representation of subaltern issues of Indian society when the waves of industrialisation, Globalization were on the threshold of India.

### **Introduction**

Arvind Adiga's *The White Tiger* is one of the literary creations based on the reality and noticed the issue of subaltern status miserable condition of Indian family/ people in, Indian society. This novel gives us the upper caste/ class people were ruling on the poor, and lowerclass of society. The British people appointed the administrator for the region/ states.All rights were given to them. The slavery of generation to generation, even child in mother's womb is also bonded before the birth. The Zamindari practices, bonded labours system sexual harassment of women from rich class, inferior treatment to from own family and society were emerged rapidly. If any one goes to revolt against this constructed frame he was brutally murdered, marginalized or force to him/her to migrate from village. In such circumstances nobody is sufficient dare to challenge this system. The villages were suffered a lot from the problems of unemployment, extreme poverty illiteracy, corruption in politics selling of votes, prostitution, and beggary etc. In t *The White Tiger* Arvind Adiga focussed on the unheard voice of marginalised sections of society, Hence the issue like subaltern is occurred in the literary works the representative/ Protagonist of novel trying to bridge the gap between classes wanted their rights as human being. They willing to generate the social equality, justices, welfare of labour class, respect on every walk of life.

Taking into consideration the upper class society is not ready to change their mindset', Hence the revolutionary thoughts were touched to the hearts and minds of subaltern they made it instrument from which they wanted their economical progress, escape from hunger, poverty and insulted life. The subaltern did not think about right and wrong path

they wanted their own existence. Sometimes they were voluntarily exploited by their masters because they had vision about their coming life/generation.

Before going to discuss the subaltern, we have to know the term. The reference of the subaltern group, people and individual who has inferior status rank in terms of class, caste, gender, richness, poverty, sex, lower sections, the illiteracy, peasants and other subordination, i.e., socially, economically, politically, culturally suppressed, influenced, affected by ideologies, social framework of dominant upper class society. The subaltern issues in *The White Tiger* is depicted in real sense. The protagonist/antihero or representative of novel becomes aggressive for freedom from hardships, and other problems. It reveals the actual picture of small earnings society like rickshaw pullers, hawkers etc. His son wanted to revolt against poverty and inferior treatment from his master/society.

### **The subaltern Consciousness in *The White Tiger***

Munna alias Balram Halwai, an antihero of the novel, was born and brought up in a small village named Laxmangraha in Bihar on the bank of a river. The setting of the novel is purely subaltern as Adiga gave us the rustic, illiterate atmosphere of a small village. The absence of hygienic habits in people, authority is not ready to provide proper health services etc. The standard of living and thinking was not reached to the village. Balram has a bedridden mother and a rickshaw-puller father who did not earn sufficient money for the family. Extreme poverty did not allow Balram's mother the medicine nor did she have new clothes for her funeral.

The characterisation itself speaks about the subalternity. The novel addressed the class whose earning sources depend on daily wages, jobs like rickshaw puller, cleaning streets, as the villages situated on the bank of Ganga, a large number of pilgrims visited it. The local people doing the jobs like luggage carrying, cleaner in shops and hotels etc. The local people were unable to manage their lives from insufficient earnings. Hence the sons and daughters are forced to do small jobs and contribute in the family's earning. Balram was an intelligent student of the school, the inspector of school gave scholarships to educate him. Balram was forced to work on a small tea shop for earnings. On the other hand, upper class people were rich and taking advantages of such circumstances of poor people. Directly or indirectly local labours/people were victimised by Zamindars, money lenders and other rich community. The novel reflects the anti-social elements which are supposed to favour the subaltern state. The reason is that they wanted bonded labours for farming and household works, sometimes they molested the women from this class. So the symbols of subaltern like Zamindari practices, corruption in politics, services were not provided by the proper channel, prostitution, child labour etc. can be seen in the novel.

Balram was not comfortable with the conditions he is in. He is ambitious, rebellious and wanted to be a driver, turn from his life and prove himself. A subaltern can/will express. Balram was a representative of subaltern classes who wish to discard his miserable condition of life, wanted revolutionary change from it to Delhi. In Delhi, he observed the difference between the high class and lower class of society. He worked as a driver for Ashok Sharma who belongs to the high class. He was exploited as a driver there and willing to free himself from

poverty, insult and day to day problems. He decided to kill his master for the fulfilment of his expectations becoming a rich and live aristocratic life. He hiked all his business living his desired life.

Balram was disappointed from his routine life and wanted to stand against it. Adiga represent the people of the classes like labours, drivers and servants which are doing work innocently they are getting insulting words from their owners as they are purchased by them. The Balram lastly got freedom from his own painful life. Unemployed youth of India which are underprivileged conditions they are subjected and borrowed by the upperclass people for their works. They had been deprived from the money/salary and other basic facilities from their owner/ company etc. In novel he gave voice to the socially oppressed and depressed people/sections of society and try to bring them into light from darkness.

The Balram's own story gave optimistic waves from which lower class will change their way and will become powerful and makers of their own destiny.

## **Conclusion**

The Spivak's publication seminal essay 'Can the subaltern speak? Then she said *NO*. When the subaltern speaks they will not live as Subaltern. The Arivnd Adiga's *The White Tiger* paved the way for subaltern issues and gave consciousness for their sorrows, sufferings and problems. No doubt Adiga focussed on the youths which were feeling congested in the social frame. The Indian youth wanted to separate themselves from manmade/society made circumstances for the pursuit of economical power and fulfil their expectations and aspirations. so Adiga tried to recognise the subaltern as subaltern so that they should deny the darkness (Village) and enter into mainstream of shinning India. The So Adiga has given revolutionary thiking to subaltern class/people modern India.

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