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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF R.K NARAYAN IN HIS INDIAN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

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Abstract

R.K Narayan was the keen observer of the 20th century society, this is the reason, and we can see the different elements of social norms in his writings. His psychological phenomena can be seen in his works and writings because through his writings he has incarnation of true meaning of Indian life and Indian culture. Narayan himself bears many problems so that he was deep rooted with his writings. We can see the great coordination of his hand and mind whatever he has written totally related to his experience. The objectives of this paper are to analysis the R.K Narayan's social philosophy and his childhood impact over his writings. **Swami and Friends** was the first book which based on his childhood incidents or it is semi autobiographical novel. It was very famous episode in "**Malgudi Days**" tv serial. Through his novels one can know about the real situation of women, in the novel "**The Guide**" Narayan portraits the picture of women through the character of Rosie. She is the character who fights between the traditional norms and liberation. Narayan's women were shy, they feel guilt if they protest in favor of theirs rights.

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Introduction:-

R. K. Narayan, whose full name is Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan one of the finest Indian authors of his generation writing in English. His father was a provincial head master. He has spent his early childhood with his maternal grandmother, Parvathi in Madras and used to spend only a few weeks each summer visiting his parents and siblings. He has studied for eight years at Lutheran Mission School close to his grandmother's house in Madras, also for a short time at the CRC High School. When his father was appointed headmaster of the Maharaja's High School in Mysore, R.K. Narayan moved back with his parents. He obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Mysore. He is famous for his fictional writings, but he did not start his published writing journey with a work of fiction. His first publication was a book review of the Development of Maritime Laws of 17th-Century England. Later, he worked as a short story writer for a local newspaper. Along with writing for local newspapers and magazines, Narayan was also working on his first novel "Swami and Friends" and finally completed this novel in 1930. He has also started his own publishing house, "Indian Thought Publications," in 1942 in Mysore. He was also nominated as a member of RajyaSabha, the Upper House of Indian Parliament, in 1980 also for RajyaSabha for his extraordinary contributions to literature. The legendary writing career of R.K. Narayan came to an end with his final book "Grandmother's Tale" in 1992. R.K. Narayan died on May 13, 2001, at 94 in Chennai.

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Objectives:-

1. Analysis of R.k Narayan and Indian social philosophy
2. Critical analysis of his works
3. Analysis of his childhood impact over his writings

R.K Narayan and his Contemporary Scene:

R.K Narayan has written on the realistic daily life of the ordinary people. He has done his work with the conditions of his time like: political, economical, social and religious conditions. As he himself was not from a rich family background so he has a great sense of observation of the conditions which he had bear that time so his writings depict the era in which he exists. His down to earth snature was inspired by the situations that were happening in the society. Narayan's themes in his novels and short stories find a brilliant life from historical scan of ordinary place event. He covers the wide scale of human experience from the innocent pranks of children to serious communal disturbance, misery of common man to parental relationship, orthodox social traditions and superstition to the supernatural elements. He is actually a great sensible author and short story writer who unconditionally loves his country and the countrymen. In his criticism, he loves euphemism; he has a great art to told bitter things in a soft sense. What reader gets from his work is perfectly illustrated the gentleness and humanity of his country. R.K Narayn writings were inspired by the British Colonial rule in India. The affect of British Colonial rule could be seen in each and every corner of India; even children were not untouched by this worst situation. He was inspired by these political conditions and he wrote the novel" Swami and Friends" in 1930s. This novel explains the complexities of British Colonial Rule over India. While the book's events revolve around ordinary childhood tolerance and complexities, the personal experiences of the hero of the novel and his friends were messed by their political context. He was also appreciated for writing by the spiritual environment of that era. No doubt that our Indian society is highly spiritual; the concept of dharma and rebirth tales and karma is deeply rooted in Indian culture. Social, cultural, moral and philosophical aspects of life, that appreciates Narayan a lot for writing about societie's conditions of that time. "The Guide" was the first work written in English which won "SahityaAkademi Award" in 1960. The book was adopted for both a movie (1965) and a play of the same name (1968) (Osborne-Bartucca, 2019). In "The Guide" explain the protagonist's journey from 'Railway Raju' to 'Saint Raju'. This transformation of the protagonist told about the social and spiritual norms .While describing this journey we will be able to know different aspects of Indian life especially south Indian culture like: religious nature of Indian, elite superiority versus simplicity of ordinary people, mixing of eastern and western culture, human emotions like love greed for money. These were the appreciation for R.K Narayan has the base of most of his works from the two epics, "The Mahabharata" and "The Ramayana". Be the characters of Swaminathan, Raju or Krishnan, all were inspired from Puranic tradition. There are sadhus, sanyasis, common men, all struggling for a healthy life. His most of the work based on struggle while growing up because of the social and religious framework of the society. In The Bachelor of Arts, Chandran falls in love with a girl but could not marry to her because, she is a Manglik and in India it is believed that only a Manglik can marry the other Manglik otherwise one of the partners will eventually die, it is the social pressure due to, he could not marry to her, in "The Guide", Rosie belongs to a family of temple dancers, known as Devadasis.

R.K Narayan's Social Philosophical Approach:

R.K Narayan is a remarkable star in the history of literature. His Novels were a soft and keen weapon for the reformation of the society. Through his works we will came to know that how R.k Narayan made a strategy that is how to refine the quality of the society. We can seen the mirror of the 20th century social philosophy through his published works. He was one of the social activist and done his works in the various fields of the society. He has a great knowledge of middle class families. "The difference between a simpleton and an intelligent man, according to the man who is convinced that he is of the latter category, is that the former wholeheartedly accepts all things that he sees and hears while the latter never admits anything except after a most searching scrutiny. He imagines his intelligence to be a sieve of closely woven mesh through which nothing but the finest can pass. " – R. K. Narayan

R.K Narayan's contribution in spirituality and British Colonial rule:

Narayan present his unique way of writing in simple language. He has majorly serious about the social and cultural life of Hindus, in a very realistic way. In the 20th century, society was going with follies, hypocrisy, castesim, rich and poor, and others. His writings also gave impact on the religious aspects of the society in which people were going indulged with" Puran" and "Upnishad". In The Bhagwad Geeta Lord Krishna says, "The fourfold system was created by Me in accordance with varying disposition and the actions (resulting from them)." In results, society will

have gone to the height of the castesim .Take Dalits in the flow of Indian literatures and the limelight of literary world of India, for this, in early 20th century Mahatma Gandhi is the primary source of inspiration for the upper-caste mainstream writers. As a matter of fact, first half of the 20th century Gandhi had influenced most of Indian writing, including regional literatures too. Gandhi's philanthropic views and actions were highly reflected in the lectures of that era. Especially for Dalits issues Dr. Ambedkar had already tolerated the struggle for Dalit's human rights from 1920. His struggle was highly rational and to the point. But the famous writer of the era had not thought and noticed what Dr. Ambedkar had done for the Dalits. But the British government had seriously took the decisions and considered Dr. Ambedkar's petition .But in literary world R. K. Narayan has shows this issues in his 'Malgudi World' skillfully and aesthetically. This is the major step done by R.K Narayan for the reformation of the society. He has presented the real picture of Dalits' socio-cultural life of the era that no one wrote in their novels. This was the major step for the social reformation.

Political Approach:

He has raised the issues of Indian politics in the novel of “Waiting for Mahatma” (1955) and told about the real leadership because a whole country is based on the shoulders of the politicians. Through his novel it still seems like, he wants to aware the youth that how they will have to be a great leader in future. Narayan raised more or less spoken about the worst and utopian realities of colonial and post-colonial India. Like most of the Indian English fiction writers of post-independence era, Narayan has chosen Indian socio-cultural and political situations as the themes of the novel. He has also explored the relationship between the east and the west. Fictional reworking of mythology and history has also been rediscovered by him in this period. National identity and national boundary occupy the narrative in most of them.

Social Phenomenon Approach:

In our society there are many issues of marriage like: love marriage issues, child marriage and re-marriages are the ground theory for him. Because, orthodox society will do anything but they will never accept the love marriages or they will decide whom he or she have to marry. This will be very difficult for them who have the dreams for their beloved. This type of issues becomes the crime because after marriage they eloped with each other. For society, it is a crime it becomes extra marital affairs. In some cases by forcefully they have to be marry with the person who is elder in comparison of her age. In the novel “The Bachelor of Arts” writer focuses on this above thoughts that how Chandran falls in love with Malathi, and later her father didn't accept their relationship and that decision will ruin the life of Chandaran. But later he fined the love for him but a golden era of his life was destroyed. Through his novels we can see a large amount of social philosophy what type of thinking people were carrying with them. In “The Dark Room” Naryan through light on the dirty minded and lusty peoples like Savitri's husband who always interested in flattering with the other women.

Social Relationship with human and non- humans:

Narayn's one of the social approaches is to get a good relation with others no matter it is with a Human or Non-Human, but be a good hearted man is also important for a well sensible society. In the present novel “The Man Eater of Malgudi” is also a social philosophical novel which is based on the concept that good always take victory on evil deeds. As we all know that he is a person who is deeply rooted with the society and wants to reform the society with delegacy and soft spoken.

Educational Approach:

His soreness against the colonial impact on India can be considered in the pessimistic view, he focus on the English education in his novels. Narayan comes back to the subject of education in India. Novels are an evidence of his concern with one of the basic issues of Gandhian movement that considered English education in India complete wastage” (Jha121) Consequently, Narayan's novels expres theme of sorrow that children and young people going far away from their own education. We can see a vast impact of English education on the Indian education. “Through the story of Swami, Narayan is demonstrating that children need to develop cognitively and they need to acquire skills of thinking rather than merely acquiring factual information. Children want to live in the world of their unrestrained imagination unfettered by logic and reason. When Narayan wrote this novel, he remembers his far-off boyhood days and became a boy himself painting the world of a child in vivid details”.

Rationale:

R.K. Narayan has a wide popularity all over the India and other countries also specially in England and U.S.A. In America he is compared to Faulkner. He has a different kind of grace in writers and British council published his

works with proud- only he was the versatile personality who has the charm of that among the other Indian writers. His short stories were adopted by B.B.C. and broadcasted - a rare distinction. University of Leeds and Delhi University venerable him with the degree of D. Litt. The core goal of his all scriptures is fragmented by aesthetic gratification. He never thought that art as a medium of any kind of profession by which you can earn as in case of Mulk Raj Anand. He translates Indian life with purity for 'the art for readers'. His achievement as a great writer lies in his capabilities to explain this gesture of merriment and peace in life to the readers. His criticism, it is pungent, but can never ever be violent and one gets the best part of life in his novels that translate the gentleness and humanity of Indian social life. As a humanist, he denies the acceptance of the dichotomy of town and country. We can found different qualities in men, in his environment they are good, bad has some qualities. They molded automatically by his environment and their deeds also. In Narayan Village we can found in villages - good, evil and murders, lusty and follies of society. Elite group was corrupt and inefficient. Narayan's study also throws light on the concept of the corruption that will be seen in many novels of some particular group.

Conclusion:-

In 20th century our India had got the independence and after freedom there are several issues in society that were perfectly illustrated by Narayan. Through this research one can know the Indian social philosophy of the 20th century. The novel "The Guide" written by R. K. Narayan, that has been considered the best novel. Through the character of Rosie, novelist shows women are considered by society as an object for men for satisfying their needs. In male dominated society women always had to struggles for their existence, for their happy life as well as for their identity in the male-dominated society. But they are still fighting with their rights, existence and their freedom. The Guide is a famous novel that is based on the same theme that shows a journey of a girl named Rosie, a dancer. Later she becomes Nalini, who fights with all the obstacles to make her own identity in the patriarchal circle. These all the problems and social phenomena was analysis by the R.K Narayan which has a great impact over our Indian culture. Through his male and female characters we can be able to understand the situation of social phenomena.

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