



### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## NAVIGATING THE NEXUS: A CRITICAL INQUIRY INTO THE INTERSECTION OF EDUCATION AND POLITICAL POWER IN RAVINDER SINGH'S YOUR DREAMS ARE MINE NOW

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### Abstract

The novels written by Ravinder Singh (February 4, 1982) cover a wide range of important themes, including friendship, marriage, sexuality, family conflict, personal tragedy, emotion, social issues, caring, and romantic relationships. The goal of this research paper is to identify the themes such as love, lust, corruption in education, women's exploitation, and social injustice that can be found in Ravinder Singh's novel *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*. The paper will examine the harshness of political interference in the educational system. It will mainly focus on the sorrowful story of two lovers fighting for women's security which represents the vulnerability of contemporary social injustice brought on by gender and caste disparities.

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### Introduction:-

Ravinder Singh essentially, was employed as an IT professional prior to beginning to write. His first book is an autobiographical novel called *I Too Had a Love Story* (2008). The Kannada version of this book, *Nannadu Ondu Prema Kathe*, was also published. Ravinder is an entrepreneur and digital creator as well. Ravinder has developed into a more prosperous and well-rounded person since the release of *I Too Had a Love Story*. For his 2013 book, *Like It Happened Yesterday*, Ravinder Singh received a nomination for the popular award category of the Raymond Crossword Book Award. He wrote in particular about the tragedies in his life. In addition, he writes young adult novels in Indian literature. His most well-known pieces are *I Too Had a Love Story* (2008), *Can Love Happen Twice?* (2011), *Tell Me a Story* (2015), *Your Dreams Are Mine Now* (2014), and *Will You Still Love Me?* (2018). *Your Dreams Are Mine Now* has themes like friendship, marriage, sexuality, family conflict, emotion, social issues, caring, and romantic relationships.

### Discussion:-

Ravinder Singh's *Your Dreams Are Mine* has covered a wide range of themes, including marriage, the education system, caste, corruption, politics, love lives, and more. In his writings, he accords both male and female characters' equal significance. He has demonstrated his ability to express a variety of social issues in a way that resonates with the younger generation of Indian society today. His female characters are the ones who prioritize both their personal and professional lives. Ravinder Singh's female characters are portrayed as strong, bold, and beautiful, and they possess some extraordinary qualities. But the end of the story will make readers cry because Rupali was being raped by cruel people. Arjun lost his conscience and cried a lot. He used to read her old texts. He campaigned for her "justice" and gained the support of everyone across the country.

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Society both influences and is influenced by literature. Compared to other literary forms, the novel form is the most realistic. Ravinder Singh shows himself to be a perceptive writer of contemporary Indian social and intellectual life through his novels. Particularly, in his novel *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*, the author presents caste and corruption as the two illnesses plaguing the Indian educational system. *Your Dreams Are Mine Now* is the heartbreaking tale of Arjun, a young man who endured numerous injustices throughout his life. But he was never afraid to stand up for what was right. This is also the narrative of a young lady, Rupali, who refused to back down from her beliefs. She was innocent and endowed with a pure heart. Set against the backdrop of political intrigue, this is a charming love story.

Woman harassment is the burning issue in today's society. Women are found more vulnerable in higher education institutions. A publication by the Panos Institute in London entitled "Beyond Victims and Villains: Addressing Sexual Violence in the Education Sector" sheds some light on the subject. According to its 1997 survey of 200 Mumbai women's college and university students, 39% of them claimed to have experienced intimidation in the form of lewd songs, verbal insults harassing phone calls, and other forms of harassment. In addition, professors were "a source of harassment including physical touching, persistent staring, making fun of female students, introducing discomfiting or sexually explicit content into the classroom, and giving marks for sex."

The alarming tendency of female students to experience being victimized by their teachers is growing. In *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*, through the character Prof. Mahajan, who taught Accounts in Delhi University. He tortures Raheema, one of the lady peons in DU. His harassment towards her is remained unrevealed till Rupali witnessed herself for his misbehavior towards Raheema. He was one of the most well-known faculty members. However, a major barrier to identifying criminal faculty is the widespread fear of the repercussions of outing such irregular faculty. In *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*, Ravinder Singh provides a clear explanation of it.

Rupali was just introduced by Raheema to Arjun, a senior DU student who supported Raheema and treated her like his sister. In addition, he is angry with Mahajan for exploiting the quota system and performing other crimes at DU. Subsequently, Arjun and Rupali come together to support Raheema. They discussed how important it was to expose Mahajan's real identity to DU students and also to all higher authorities. Rupali wants to complain against Mahajan and so she gives the video of his misbehavior towards Raheema to Arjun. Then the party members of Arjun's also join with them for the mission. They just edited video in order to hide the image of Raheema and posted it to local news channels and uploaded the video to the internet. At last their mission was successful, Mahajan was arrested for his harassment over Raheema. But being an active person of the nation's political party he was able to come out of the jail through the bail by Haniff, the famous national politician. The vengeful mind of Mahajan draws up a plan to revenge Rupali for her complaint against him. On the day she was supposed to meet someone named Arjun, a van abruptly stopped beside her. Two men forcibly grabbed Rupali and took her to an abandoned mill on the outskirts of Delhi. The desolate location lacked light and seemed haunted. In this grim setting, four men attempted to assault her, leaving her defenseless due to previous injuries inflicted by other individuals. The narrative reflects the tragic violation of a once innocent and righteous soul, highlighting the profound wrongdoing against someone who had consistently stood for what was right. "a beautiful innocent soul had been torn apart. The one who had always stood for the right things had been badly wronged." (228)

After a day the wounded Rupali found out. In the next few hours, the brutal and heinous gang rape of a DU girl had become breaking news in the national media. And in those stories, Rupali, who was still a living being, lost her identity. In the medical vocabulary she became a patient, in the terminology of law and order she became a victim, in the language of the media, she was a rape survivor. And unfortunately for a large part of India, she had become impure; an impurity that couldn't be undone by any means. A stigma was now attached, embedded in her and had become a part of her existence. Even though she had never wanted it. Even though she had resisted it. Unfortunately, she would have to live with it, if she survived. And so that the extent of her ignominy could be minimized, she was robbed of her own identity, of her real name in those media stories.

The case of Rupali in the novel is like The Nirbhaya case also referred to as the 2012 Delhi gang rape and murder case, related to a rape and fatal assault that took place in Munirka, a South Delhi neighborhood, on December 16, 2012. Jyoti Singh, a 23-year-old intern in physical therapy, was subjected to abuse, including beatings, gang sexual assaults, and torture while riding in a private bus with her friend, Avnindra Pratap Pandey. The woman suffered a rape and her friend was beaten by the six people on the bus, including the driver. She passed away two days later

from her wounds. The incident was widely denounced and received extensive national and international media coverage.

The parallels between Rupali's case in the novel and the real-life tragedy of the Nirbhaya case highlight the pervasive and deeply disturbing nature of violence against women. Both instances depict heinous acts of brutality that not only physically harm the victims but also scar society as a whole. The profound impact of such incidents extends beyond the immediate victims, affecting communities and sparking a collective outcry for justice and societal change. These cases serve as poignant reminders of the urgent need to address and eradicate the root causes of gender-based violence, fostering a culture that prioritizes respect, equality, and the protection of individuals from harm. As we reflect on these cases, it becomes evident that the fight against such atrocities requires ongoing commitment from individuals, communities, and institutions to create a safer and more equitable world for everyone.

### **Conclusion:-**

The novel *Your Dreams Are Mine Now* describes the result of fighting against power exploitation. Actually, education should empower women, but at every stage of life, women are exploited by male dominance. It is time that the girl students speak out about the exploitation of power, and people like Mahajan should face consequences and be stripped of their authority. The novel has themes such as love, lust, corruption in education, women's exploitation, and social injustice. It shows the austerity of political interference in the educational system and the sorrow of the major characters, Arjun and Rupali, defending women's security, both of which represent the vulnerability of contemporary social injustice brought on by gender and caste disparities.

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