

The White Tiger as a real portrait of Indian Society**Shubhangi Lavate,**

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Abstract

The present paper focuses on the real issues of Indian Society. Caste and religion discrimination, corruption, Poverty, dowry system are the issues in the present India. Exploitation and harassment of poor people by landlords in India and other issues mentioned above is the core theme of the novel through the various characters such as Balram Halwai, Ashok Sharma, Pinky and other characters. The present research paper is presented through evaluation and interpretation of The White Tiger by Arvind Adiga.

Life and works of Arvind Adiga :

Arvind Adiga was born in Madras on the 23rd October, 1974. Though Adiga born in Madras, he was raised partly in Australia. Adiga began his journalistic career as a financial journalist, interpreting of the financial Times. He was also a former correspondent for **Times Magazine** in India. Adiga's articles appeared also in publications such as **Financial Times Independent and Sunday Times**. Arvind Adiga's novel, *The White Tiger*, won 2008 Booker prize. He is the fourth Indian-born author to win the prize. Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, and Arvind Adiga. Arvind Adiga wrote the following books :

1. *The White Tiger*: A novel (2008)
2. *Between the Assassinations: A collection of short stories* (2008)

The White Tiger as a real portrait of Indian Society- :

The White Tiger is mainly about contemporary Indian social reality. It is a critique of India as a country lagging behind China and other developed countries in many fields. Poverty, corruption, ill-practices, terrorism and pollution are enemies in the progress of our country.

Poverty is one of the serious problems in cotemporary India. In villages feudal landlords control the poor tenants and the labourer's class. The stork family exploits the small farmers, labourers and those who depend upon them. When Ashok was small his father and others were exploited and unjustly treated by the rich landlord and when driver he finds that the poor have to remain Rooster Coop. He notices social injustice, exploitation, and live a wretched kind of life. He observes the life of drivers, servants, slum dwellers in cities. Poverty creates monsters. Balram himself is such a monster. Those who cannot tolerate social injustice, they become criminals.

Corruption in Indian society, politics and other fields is one of the real portrait of Indian society in *The White Tiger*. Corruption in the social and political life in India becomes more and more apparent. There is bribery between politicians and wealthy top caste men. They give money to the politicians so that during an election, their campaign pays money to the minister to be exempt from paying taxes. The same political party led by the great socialist keeps getting elected over and over again. Corruption is at work in politics.

The police are corrupt and can be caught off with money easily by someone who is rich and powerful. Corruption is not rare in the government health department particularly in the hospitals. Balram's father suffering from T. B. is admitted in Lohia Universal Free Hospital. But he finds the doctors, medicines, medical facilities are not available. So the patient suffers and they are deprived of the medical services and facilities.

The institution of Indian family is also attacked by Adiga. The hard working family members are exploited by others. Balram's father work hard for family. The granny controls the family. She does not care for the education of the children. She wants them to work in a tea-shop or as labourers. Chili labour is one of the problems in Indian society.

Dowry system is also a curse. Balram's cousin sister marries and then family is required to spend a lot of money in the form of dowry. Balram has to leave school. In Krishna's marriage the Granny takes huge dowry and other items. Unemployment is one of the problems in India. Ram Prasad and Balram use different tactics to get jobs as drivers.

Terrorism is also social, political and economic problem in India. The Naxalities kidnap the children of the landlords and kill them. Then the landlords further harass the family of those who helped the terrorist or the Naxalities. Communists put pressure on the rich landlords through such tactics.

Lastly pollution is also a problem. Balram describes the river Ganga and its water which is polluted and it has become dirty. The slum area in cities like Delhi is full of pollution. The old Delhi is called dark place. The writer compares India with China. He finds China going ahead of India in providing sewage, drinking water, good medical facilities, roads, scope for sports. But India is ahead of China in being a being a democratic country giving freedom to citizens and making progress in the field of science and technology. India can boast of good businessman and entrepreneurs. In 2020 India will be with China ruling and leading the world on the strength of its progress in the field of technology and glorious tradition of its civilization and culture.

Major Ideas:

1. Poverty: The real depiction of poverty is in a novel. Poverty is a main cause of Balram's becoming entrepreneur.
2. Corruption: Corruption is deeply rooted in Indian Society. Corruption in politics and Government offices by landlords, police and doctors described in a novel reflects a true picture of Indian society.

Principal Characters in a novel:

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| 1. Balram Halwai | 5. Kishan |
| 2. Ashok | 6. Mr. Wen Jiabo |
| 3. Pinky Madam | 7. Mr. Krishna |
| 4. Mukesh | |

Structure of the novel:

The novel is realistic and epistolary. The narration is in first person. The places described in a novel are Delhi, Bangalore, Dhanbad, and Laxmangarh.

References

Primary sources:

1. Adiga, Arvind. *The White Tiger*. Harper Collins. India: 2008, press.

Secondary Sources:

1. Chopra, Radhika. "social criticism in Arvind Adiga's The Whitw Tiger". IUP Journal of English Studies. Sept. 2010. Print.
2. Nikam, Madhuri . "Face to Face with Reality: Arvind Adiga's The White Tiger". The Quest 25.1 (June 2009) 86-90.