



ISSN 2349-638X

REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

**AAYUSHI
INTERNATIONAL
INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH JOURNAL
(AIIRJ)**

MONTHLY PUBLISH JOURNAL

VOL-II

ISSUE-XI

NOV.

2015

Address

- Vikram Nagar, Boudhi Chouk, Latur.
- Tq. Latur, Dis. Latur 413512
- (+91) 9922455749, (+91) 9158387437

Email

- editor@aiirjournal.com
- aiirjpramod@gmail.com

Website

- www.aiirjournal.com

CHIEF EDITOR – PRAMOD PRAKASHRAO TANDALE

“A STUDY OF GREED AND HYPOCRISY IN HENRY FIELDING’S *JOSEPH ANDREWS*”

Author- Kamalakar Baburao Gaikwad

Assistant Professor,
SIES Graduate School of Technology,
Nerul, Navi Mumbai.

Co-Author- Vijay D. Songire

Assistant Professor,
SIES Graduate School of Technology,
Nerul, Navi Mumbai.

Introduction:

Henry Fielding’s ‘Joseph Andrews’ is considered as a distinct genre and most popular form of literature. Through this comic epic in prose, he wants to expose ridiculous and corrupt nature of men and women. The researcher portrays the real life of various characters and their traits. The present paper is the manifestation of greed and hypocrisy of clergy and secular characters in the 18th century contemporary England. Fielding demonstrates vanity through parody, irony, burlesque, wit and humour. He convinces that greed and hypocrisy prove to be the real danger to religion as well as society. In this way, the researcher made a sincere attempt to reveal Christian morals and ethics through Joseph Andrews.

Keywords:

Greed and hypocrisy, vanity, morals and ethics, spirituality, corruption in churches

Significance of the Research:

Joseph Andrews is an interesting novel in many ways. There are many thematic concerns and different meanings in the novel. However the novel has been considered only limited perspectives. This novel basically speaks about the evil of immortality. Fielding’s approach is humorous, slapstick and satirical. At times he roars with laughter and at other times, he sobs in tears. Theme of the novel is male chastity. It is the parody of Richardson’s *Pamela*.

The researcher feels that it is possible to analyze *Joseph Andrews* from broader angle, namely greed and hypocrisy of clergy and secular characters. It is helpful to look at the novel from the point of view of analytical study of greed and hypocrisy in 18th century England. The significance of the Research is not only to criticize bad vices like greed, vanity, hypocrisy, ambition but also to highlight them in order to correct these vices and makes aware clergy and other general characters about their spiritual and social status. This approach is original and it can help to find out a fresh but so far undiscovered world of the novel. It will help us to

understand the meanings of the life style, etiquettes, manners, hypocrite nature, pretence and vanity of clergy and other general characters which reflect through the characters of Parson Adams, Parson Trulliber, Parson Barnabus, Lady Booby, Mrs. Slipslop, Beau Didapper, Lawyer Scout etc. Others can easily understand certain qualities of these characters and tries to make themselves aloof from vanity, greed, passion, pride and ambition. Through the study of characters, they can rectify themselves and thus they can understand the novel better. It is important to study this novel in the present context by exposing the follies and vices of these characters through *Joseph Andrews* by applying principles of Christianity.

Fielding's Preface declares that the target of his satire is the ridiculous, that "the only Source of the true Ridiculous" is affectation, and that "Affectation proceeds from one of these two Causes, Vanity, or Hypocrisy." Hypocrisy, being the dissimulation of true motives, is the more dangerous of these causes: whereas the vain man merely considers himself better than he is, the hypocrite pretends to be other than he is. Fielding chose to combat these two forms of affectation, the harmless and the less harmless, by poking fun at them, on the theory that humor is more likely than invective to encourage people to remedy their flaws.

Aims and Objectives:

The researcher aims to analyze *Joseph Andrews* by using the study of greed and hypocrisy specific point of view which explored the various dimensions and concerns, manners, etiquettes manners, hypocrite nature, pretence and vanity of various characters with suitable examples. The researcher intends to approach the work using greed and hypocrisy specificities. The researcher has objectives to study these bad traits, vices, immoral and vanities through Henry Fielding's *Joseph Andrews* and discover the spiritual standards and basic truths of Christianity. It also suggests the ideal ways to follow the footsteps of ideal clergy.

In this novel, greed, ambition and vanity is exposed at a great extent and has been reflected through the characters of clergy and secular characters respectively. Researcher wants to study and discover the social reality of spiritual standards.

Hypothesis:

1. Hypocrisy and vanity are widespread in all domains of life.
2. Religion is often perverted by hypocrites who are the real danger for society.
3. It is hypocrisy to pretend to be a Christian and then avoid Christian charity.
4. It is a ridiculous thing when religion is used as a disguise for vulgar motives such as lust, greed and ambition.

Chapterization:

First Chapter - Introduction

In this chapter, introduction of the novel and writing features of Henry Fielding are depicted. In this chapter, introduction of the novel and writing features of Henry Fielding are depicted. Morals and ethics of contemporary England are described effectively. It also reveals

the nature of the novel. It focuses on Fielding's narrative technique, style and characterization. The chief source of the humour is pretence which arises from vanity and hypocrisy.

Second Chapter – Theoretical Background

It highlights some important aspects in Joseph Andrews such as setting, realism, theme, parody, humour, moral ethics, manners etc.

Third Chapter – Greedy and Hypocrite Parsons

It shows the real portrayal of parsons in 18th century contemporary England. These parsons prove real danger to Christian community. They pervert their religion by showing hypocrisy through their lives. They are the real witness for the wide spreading hypocrisy in all domains of life.

They use religion as a disguise for vulgar motives such as lust, greed and ambition. They run after money. They lack humanity and spirituality. They are only Sunday gentlemen. They give preferences to physical business rather than spiritual one.

They cannot resist the temptation of worldly things like chewing tobacco, merrymaking, drinking etc. They pretend about their knowledge for holy Scriptures. Their appearance provokes laughter. They are the real cause of mock and satire for others.

Fourth Chapter – Greedy and Hypocrite secular characters

Fielding exposes vanity and greed through humour and burlesque. Their greed may prove to be the real danger to religion and society. The main purpose is to focus on false charity and sexual hypocrisy. All characters are full of vanity, greed, passion, ambition and pride. Their behavior is not ideal one.

Fifth Chapter – Conclusion

The concluding chapter sums up the ideas and points emerging from the issues discussed in the preceding chapters. It further states the major findings of the research. The pedagogic implications have been given the possibilities for the further research.

Scope and Limitations of the Research:

The efforts of the researcher are to explore a new approach by analyzing and understanding the novel, so that a fresh perspective will be available. There is a considerable scope from studying the novel from study of greed and hypocrisy point of view, way of life, local colour, artificiality, aristocracy, supremacy, vanity and ambition of 18th century people. The criticism is done through direct satire, humour, burlesque, broad farce etc. The research has its own limitations too. The researcher intends to research on his novel *Joseph Andrews* only and main focus of his research is on the study of greed, vanity, hypocrisy and ambition of parsons and secular characters.

Research Methodology:

1. A thorough study and careful reading of the novel.
2. A brief analysis of the critical materials available on the novel
3. Parallel works if any.
4. Information available on Internet
5. Observation and Survey method.

The Conclusion Expected and Its Possible Values:

The conclusion focuses on the greed, hypocrisy, vanity and ambition of parsons and secular characters of 18th century contemporary England. It highlights their manners, etiquettes, lifestyles and aristocratic life as reflected through the characters of Clergy's like Parson Adams, Parson Trulliber, Parson Barnabas and secular characters like Lady Booby, Mrs. Slipslop, Peter Pounce, Beau Didapper, Lawyer Scout etc.

Major Findings:

1. It is observed that Christianity is the way of life resulting from a dynamic conception. It is only natural that one should reveal his faith and all his encompassing charity through good works.
2. It is observed that parsons and believers should be submissive to the principles of Christianity as they have to give an account of their deeds.
3. It is noticed that hypocrisy proves a nuisance to religion and leads people away from faith.
4. It is found that greed and hypocrisy of parsons shatters the faith of believers.
5. It is observed that parsons are the backbones of Christianity. They are the real source of inspiration and hope.
6. It is the hypocrisy to pretend to be Christian but avoid Christian charity.
7. Affectation, vanity, greed and hypocrisy are the major objects of ridicule.
8. Vanity is the worst of passions and more apt to contaminate the mind than any other human qualities.
9. The study of hypocrisy makes us conceal our vices under the appearance of virtue in order to escape social criticism.
10. The study of corruption of contemporary society, politics, religion, morality and taste is very useful to analyze the elements like greed, vanity, ambition and hypocrisy of parsons and secular characters.

Pedagogical Implications:

The present study has significant pedagogical implications. The insights gained through this research can be used to know the relationship among greed, hypocrisy and vanity through human behavior, attitudes and thoughts. This research helps us to understand the significance of moralities and ethics, growth of religion through maintaining spiritual standards by clergy and other secular characters. The spiritual awareness among believers fosters their faith

in god and enables them to maintain good relationship with god. It achieves the deeper truths in Christianity more convincingly. It helps to increase the level of understanding of believers and to identify Christian standards more effectively.

Present study focuses on both parameters substantially in order to rectify in their every walks of life. This would help the teachers to acquaint the students to keep themselves aloof from worldly vices. In fact, clergy should set an ideal example before the believers so that they should follow their ways and be followers of Christianity. Clergy, the servant of God, is like a letter for the believers because they read them and imitate their footsteps. In the same manner, believers should be obedient and have to respect to the parsons as they are the messengers of god. They are not supposed to ridicule the clergy by all means which can create a stumbling block in the way of believers and keep them away from maintaining spiritual standards.

Some suggestions for further research:

The present research work is devoted to the analysis of the novel by using greed and hypocrisy as a specific point of view. This topic is multi-disciplinary, inspiring and challenging. It can be studied from various dimensions. The work is expected to be useful to the readers, priests, church parishioners, church elders, deacons, bishops and every general people who study and teach the deeper truths of hypocrite and ideal Christian life. It is also useful to the researchers who are interested in studying the basic concepts of

1. History of Indian Churches
2. Status of Parsons and Parishioners in Christianity
3. Inter relationship between Priests and Parishioners
4. The Corruption in Churches
5. Controversies and conflicts in Churches
6. Narrative Technique in Joseph Andrews
7. Parsons as the object of satire in 18th century,
8. The pride and ambition of Secular characters
9. The study of hypocritical prudery in religion etc.

Further research on these areas may prove very beneficial to the students, readers, teachers, priests and general public. As far as the topic is concerned, its aim is to cater the needs of the people to improve their ways and to rectify themselves and keep them aloof from all kinds of greed and hypocrisy. The researcher has studied all aspects in a positive manner. His intention is crystal clear that both parson as well as believers should rectify their ways and set an ideal example of Christianity and not to condemn any religious feelings or not to hurt anyone.

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