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The theme of child labour in coolie (1936) and Boy's without Names (2010)**Hemangini Mane**

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Mulk Raj Anand one of the great Indian English writer started writing from beginning decades of the 20th century onwards. Whereas kashmira Seth is writing in the beginning decade of the 21st century. Both these novels have the common theme of crisis of child labour. *Coolie* was written in 1936 and *Boys Without Names* was written in 2010. There is a lot of gap in handling the severe social problem in the novel. Socially committed writers have rather neglected this theme. The same cries of poor children are depicted by these two writers. They have tried to create in the minds of the readers an awareness of the dehumanizing social evils and sensitize them for the innocent sufferers. The common issue in both the novels is poverty-stricken child labour and heartless society. The novel depict real picture of the society and suffering of the child-labour.

The novel 'Coolie' was written in 1936. It was the colonial India. Most of the people from villages were so poor that they were unable to get enough food and clothing. India struggled against the British Raj. The novel *Coolie* concentrates on the social structure of the society that made many innocents to suffer.

The novel is remarkable for its multiplicity of its characters and pitiful condition of Munoo, an innocent child, labour and the merciless mechanical rhythm of the society. Munoo cannot find place for himself. He is shifted from one place to another and the end is untimely death of sixteen years old child labour Munoo.

The central theme of the novel is exploitation of the child labour. Mulk Raj Anand portrays two classes of characters: the exploiter and the exploited. The exploiters are the owners of the capitalistic machinery like cotton mills tea estates and banks. During the British Raj, all the whites supported each other in their brutal exploitation thrust upon the natives. Mulk Raj Anand depicts the natives as supporters to the British Raj. Today in the 21st century not colonizers exploit the poors but our own people natives, as it they are the inheritors of the colonizers. In *Boys without name* the exploiter is the native man, who needs money and is cruel than the Britishers and the victims are innocent children, who are victim of poverty.

Munoo is the victim of social structure of the society. Mulk Raj Anand depicts realistic picture. So he does not make his protagonist to rebel against the capitalist exploitation but makes him victim of it. Whereas Kashmira Seth makes her protagonist Gopal to escape himself and other trapped boys by the cruel scar man. Suffering of children who are trapped by greedy, cruel people in Bombay is really a healing picture. The tragedy of Munoo in *Coolie* or the tragedy of boys in '*Boys Without Names* is the same. Poverty is the basic cause of their suffering.

Both the novels depict innocent life of children below the age of sixteen. They are active, brilliant, innocent but starved, deprived of love from their family and the victim of social structure. They are victimized by the exploitative, capitalist system. They can't get sympathy and love even after whole heartedly sacrificing themselves to their employers. Poverty, hunger and exploitation seem to be transmitted to them from their parents.

Both the novels describe exploitative nature of the employers. Children are abused, kicked, harshly beaten by the employers. Munoo, Gopal, and others always live in a fearful condition. They are physically and mentally injured by their owners. They suffer from mental ill- health, fear, anger, sense of nothingness are the common feelings in them.

Child labour is the universal problem. Both Kashmira Seth and Mulk Raj Anand have focused on this issue. This is the fate of every poor child. Both the novels handle the theme of social and economic exploitation. Economic and social structure decide the fate of the poor children who have to become earning members at the very early stage of life.

In *Coolie* Munoo's miseries begins with the feudal exploitation and in *Boys Without Name* Gopal's misery starts because of the same exploitation. His baba lost his farm because of the debt taken from the land-lord. Thus these two novels depict a healing picture of the child labour and their unending crises.

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