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**Child Labour ; Neglected Theme In Indian English Novel****Hemangini Mane**

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Childhood is the most innocent phase in human life. No child is born to work. But unfortunately, society is sensitiveless towards the cries of these innocents. Childhood is such an important period in human life, when it needs good food and nutrition, good care for physical and mental health for the future successful human life. Happy and healthy childhood makes well developed personality but unhappy childhood leads to many crises in human life. Various childhood factors affect a person's attitude formation. Good caring, love, affection will bring out the best in every child. A Child's emotional needs like encouraging words, guidelines, love and affection, support, trust, should be fulfilled, especially in the age group of 6 to 12 years, because it allows a youngster to think properly and to acquire new skills. Thus, physical and mental health both are important for becoming healthy and good human being.

Unfortunately, child labour is becoming severe problem almost all over the world. Children have become earning machine, working sincerely in low wages in order to satisfy needs of the family. Poverty forces them to work in such an early stage of life. Children collecting plastic bags and waste material in dustbins, washing dishes in the hotel, hungry children serving delicious food and wine in bars at the mid-night when it is sweet time for a child to sleep, children digging soil with its small and tender hands, carrying a heavy load, working in the factories and full smoked bakeries, is really a heart-breaking picture. But it's a naked truth and no any sensitive human can see this heart-breaking reality of human society. Innocent childhood is crushed to earn bread and butter for the family and self; when it's a birth-right of every child to get good caring and good education and this should be the main policy of every nation to protect and promote the welfare of the children because they are the future of the nation and the greatest gift to humanity.

Child labour is in existence since time immemorial in almost all the countries irrespective of the level of development in all the fields and financial status of the country and also of expansion of education in every country. It is difficult to identify the enormity and dimensions of child labour. Even the researchers, NGO's and other social workers who are involved in combat against child labour do not get real information about the Psychological seriousness of this problem. The issue has been discussed everywhere and many steps have been taken against it. At national and international level government, NGO's and social workers have been fighting against this worst kind of social abuse; yet the results are really desparating. Better understanding of this problem, the study of long-lasting psychological effect on the society and effective steps would be helpful in eradication of child labour.

India has the largest number of children labours in the world. In India large number of children are nowhere children. They are really potential children. Miserable condition of child labour is discussed by the researchers working on social and psychological study. Psychology and literature both these branches of human knowledge are devoted to the study of the self and the society. Psycho- analysis is the method to understand the seriousness of the problems of human society. Sigmund Freud studied literature to present his psychological theories. He had studied

'Hamlet', one of the famous tragedies by William Shakespeare to explain his psychological theories. It means literature plays very important role in understanding psychological problems of the human society and psychological theories can solve many problems of human being.

Actually, child labour is not a current issue. Different theories have caught the attention of the society towards this social problem. In England Charles Dickens wrote about seriousness of this problem and the social and psychological impacts on the self and the society. He exploits Child labour as the outcome of the social structure. In India writers like Mulk Raj Anand, Anita Desai wrote about the problems of the society. They have focused on social problems such as gender, race or class discrimination which give birth to many other social abuses like criminality, violence and also the plight of child labour. The common consideration about the root cause of child labour is poverty. Actually, literature is an interpretation of the real-life situations and the novel depicts various social problems.

Though it seems that poverty is the root cause of child labour, there are some other basic problems in the Indian society. A gender bias is one of the important issues. The new Indian nation was formed in 1947, India became democratic country. India embraced the principles of liberalism in its national constitution, which came into effect in 1950. It extended equal rights and opportunity, to every citizen, yet some orthodox value system hasn't been changed till today. Many Indians have been fighting against caste system, religious systems, gender biases etc. This social reality is reflected in Indian literature especially novels written by Mulk Raj Anand, Anita Desai, Kashmira Seth etc. Indian women writers have focused on children's problems. From the very beginning problems of child labour are depicted by some Indian writers in the context of social system like caste, religion, gender biases and other deep-rooted systems.

Charles Dickens wrote about the plight of Children working in the factories struggling against poverty. With New discoveries, a large number of factories were established in the cities which required man power. Industrialists needed workers working in low wages, thus poor innocent children became labours. The miserable picture of such children is depicted by Charles Dickens in his novels. In India situation was not far different, industrialization came in India and this became the common picture in India also. But before Industrialization poor children had to work in the farms and other places. Especially girls are always victimized and oppressed from their early childhood but unfortunately Indian English writers have neglected this issue for their writing.

The Problem of child labour is a product of social systems as urbanization, industrialization, caste system gender biases poverty, unemployment of the adults, and traditional outlook, deep social prejudices etc. There are other Co-related factors such as untimely death of parents or earning member of the family, poverty and the related bad habits, large family size, lack of schooling, ignorance etc. Children are used for different types of domestic works and also sent in the hotels, industry transport, household work and other areas as a labour. Child labour is treated as cheap labour, and easily available. But physical and psychological exploitation of child labour may create problem for the individual and the society. It is the worst kind of social evil because innocent childhood is crushed and there is the exposure of different kinds of permanent psychological effects on the mind of the child. It is always hazardous to their health and deny them the opportunities of development. Children's engagement in economic activity and hazardous and exploitative work makes devastating effect on their mental and physical development. The negative effect on the physiological and psychological levels of children is a very serious and burning issue for the researchers. Yet it has still remained untouched or neglected by them. Child labour are forced to

lead permanently victim of psychological crisis like emotional distress, depression, exhibited phobic reactions, excessive anger, tremors, trauma, poor memory confusion sense of inferiority, fear, psychosis feeling of helplessness, negative worldview, hopelessness, guilty consciousness, emotional unresponsiveness.

The term socio-Psychological refers to involving a combination of social and psychological factors. certain, social situation is the outcome of child labour. Many of the social realist novelists have studied the problems of child labour. According to them poverty, caste, and religions system are at the root of this social abuse. Writers like Mulk Raj Anand, Gita wolf and kashmira Seth have turned their readers attention on this worst kind of social abuse. Psychological crises are of very serious type that can affect the individual and the society. Socio-Psychological study of the novels on child labour can make us aware of the seriousness of this problem. Everyone should look at this social abuse in a sensitive way. Yet no any researcher has studied socio-psychological crises of child labour. Very Few Indian English writers have written about the problems of child labour. Very recently some Marathi writers like Laxmikant Deshmukh very sensitively sketched the crises of child labour. Every writer should look very sensitively at this worst kind of social abuse. A Very kind hearted. Social worker like 'Kailash Satyrthi' have already stand the movement. But Every person should get involved in it, so that we can give justice these innocents. And of course, writers role is very important one.

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