

Crises of Street Children in Kashmira Seth's *Boys without Names*

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Abstract:-

Childhood is the most innocent phase in human life. It is such an important period in human life when it needs good care and nutrition for physical and mental health for the future successful human life. It is a birth-right of every child to get good caring and good education and it 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 human society. But unfortunately no society is free from street children and child labour. Street children are poor and homeless children who live on the footpath of a city or village. Such children are often subject to abuse and exploitation. They often feel guilty and stressed. Most Indian street children work and a common job are rag-picking, begging, prostitution and domestic labour. Even some street children are trapped by the cruel, money-minded people and forced to work for more than eighteen hours a day. They are not served enough food and harshly beaten and injured by their owner. Many children work in the hotels as waiter and dish-washer. Even they are victimized for sexual lust of other workers and customers.

Kashmira Seth is one of the leading Indian English Writer. Her novel *Boys without Names*(2010) is about the exploitation of street children who are forced to become a labour. For the writing of this novel she talked with many such street children in Mumbai and she depicted naked truth of child labour. It is the dark side of human society, because no child is born to work and child labour is the worst kind of social abuse. Poverty is the root cause of it. Kashmira sesh deals with different crises of child labour. *Boys without Names (2010)* is a story of the child named Gopal, who comes to Mumbai with his family. This poverty stricken family has not enough money for the journey also. Unfortunately Gopal is trapped by the scar man. He keeps him in the darkness with other trapped children and tortures all these children for his purpose. He kicks them many times. However Gopal an intelligent boy escapes himself and rescues others also. The novel describes realistic but pathetic picture of child labour.

Gopal is trapped by the scar man and is forced to work. Nobody is allowed to talk. Innocent children's life is crushed by such merciless people, who trap children or keep child labour to satisfy their greed for money.

Poor children are not safe anywhere if they are not under the protection of their family because they are too innocent to demand the proper wages of their work. They get exploited by their owners. In many places the contractor, the owner exploit them, and kill mercilessly, thus their innocent vision is spoiled at the very early stage of life. Hunger stricken children have to work without any complaint. Very unhealthy atmosphere is created in such working places. Gopal calls one of the boy as thick fingers is *Chhota Boss*, and he tortures other Children. Actually he is also one of them but he is psychologically prepared so. His boss has already prepared him so. Gopal doesn't get enough food, he is given half food the scar man scolds him. He is so small only ten years old but he is so sensible and responsible, when he is trapped he thinks of his father and responsibility of the twins. Trapped children are not allowed to take bath regularly. On the bath day also they are scolded by the scar man:

Hurry up, you lazy dogs (151)

Gopal is so brilliant that he can make different plans. His imagination power is bright one, yet he becomes helpless and after a week's efforts, he also thinks that, there is no chance to escape. The scar man is so cruel and always cautious:

For the last few days there has been no rain, no break in work, and no chane to escape. Scar locks up the doors not only when he leaves but even

when he is here. In the beginning I thought I could escape, but now I am not sure. How can I plan something that seems impossible? (152)

Even animals are not treated so badly, but innocent children are humiliated in that way. When at the first time Gopal is kicked by the scar man he remembers his baba, Gopal bitterly weeps for such cruel treatment by the scar man. Once such poor children are trapped, they can't find the way to come out.

Scar gives very inhuman treatment to Gopal an innocent. He even thinks that Gopal's evils look can create magic effect on him. So he shares food with Gopal not out of generosity but because he is afraid of his curse.

Children are compelled to hide their identity. They are not allowed to utter one another names. They are called as rat, Cockroach. When Gopal calls 'Amar' one of the trapped boy, he whispers:

But Boss will be mad if he hears if (195)

All children live in a frightened condition. They have always fear that, at any time scar would come and kick them or hit them. They are hopeless for their future. They think that, they have no any right to see beautiful dreams, when it is an innocent dreamy age under fifteen. They know only real world of torture, physical assault by Scar and working endlessly. Gopal tries to amuse them by telling some stories.

Children once trapped cannot be escaped from the hands of demon like scar. He only knows use of these innocents. He needs money and children, a working machine without emotions. He kicks them mercilessly, uses disgusting words. Even though GC and Gopal get chance to escape they can't go.

Trapped children are brought from different places. But they get emotionally attached with one another. After living together and suffering from cruelty by the boss, they start taking care of one another. Even they cannot imagine getting out alone from this hell. So does Gopal. Now he thinks of the other children and their safety.

Gopal escapes himself and other children. But in reality everyday thousands of children become victim of poverty. They become homeless and are left on the mercy of the society and miserable

childhood spoils their whole life they cannot come out of psychological crisis.

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