

Human Sufferings in Kamala Markandaya's a Handful of Rice

P.Muthulakshmi, M.Meena.Ma,Mphil,Phd,

*M.phil.scholar, shakthi college of arts and science ottanchathram tamilnad dindigul district u
Asst.proffessor shakthi college of arts and science ottanchathram tamilnadu dindigul district*

Corresponding author: P.Muthulakshmi

Date of Submission: 15-09-2020

Date of Acceptance: 30-09-2020

ABSTRACT

The paper aims to study the sufferings of the human in Kamala Markandaya's A Handful of Rice, Published in 1966. The social concern depicts the theme of starvation and the sufferings of the human in an indifferent and cruel society. Kamala Markandaya portrays the picture of both rural and urban life in Indian society, with complete skill in this Novel. A Handful of Rice is composed by Kamala Markandaya centers around loss of human qualities in the wake of industrialization. She tries to sketch it with a disobedient voice of Ravi, a protagonist of the Novel. The oriental modes in different features are seen in the Novel, for example, convention refrains innovation, town stanzas town confidence sections reason, magic refrains science and mysticism sections realism. It can likewise be inferred that East and West experience by symbolizing Ravi and Damodar, the created has appropriately demonstrated that the general population of East are by personality customary and never permit to leave their holy observances despite the fact that amid the acidic period. The motivation behind this article to examine the Novels as far as topic, plot, setting, characters, perspective, imagery, to ne.

Keywords: Conflict, survival, human values spiritualism, sacraments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Humankind is a social animal and has various issues for the duration of regular day to day existence. The presence related issues are social, prosperity and cash related in the midst of contemporary period. The element of abnormality of lifestyle is one of the main problems in the overall population and it shows up in a wide range in country like India. Among the three prime troubles in the overall population, cash related issue is more talked about and inspected by everyone in the overall population. It is in like

manner being locked in with little plan through insightful world by the makers. Female creators have in like manner fixated on money related issue through their synthesis and refrains. Kamala Markandaya, an acknowledged essayist moreover formed books on social and budgetary issues of Indian families and one of them is A Handful of Rice credited her over the world. This epic twist around urban desperation and how neo-urban relative adjust to it. The present examination oversees fundamental examination of A Handful of Rice with respect to subject, plot, setting, characters, point of view, symbolism, tone and irony

Theme: A Handful of Rice

Kamala Markandaya worried about the issues of provincial Indians previously freedom and postindependence, too. Amongst numerous social shades of malice, craving and debasement were the most tormenting and disturbing. They were the best social worries of India before opportunity. The fundamental subject of A Handful of Rice is monetary issues in the life of normal Indian rustic youth. Ravi; a primary hero of the novel can't adapt money related shakiness in his life and swings to urban for better life. He encounters that trustworthiness and success would not run together subsequent to meeting with Damodar. He endeavors to be affluent by exploitative ways however he just picks up joblessness, disappointment and experience with police in the city of Madras. He understands that money is less vital in life than mental peace.

Setting

A Handful of Rice is a sequel of Nectar in a Sieve. But the setting reassembles an expressionistic drama. The main elements of setting in novel are culture, historical period, geography and characters. A Handful of Rice set geographically in two distinct area of TamilNadu

state of India. Ravi is a protagonist young boy from rural area of TamilNadu and migrated to Madras (now Chennai) for better life standard. Ravi has his family members in rural and also friends in Madras.

Key Characters

- Ravi: Main Protagonist as a male character.
- Nalini: Ravi's wife to whom he gets married after falling in love.
 - Kannan: Ravi's friend and a son of Blacksmith in Madras.
 - Damodar: A man professionally engaged with gambling, liquor, smuggling and trades with underworld in Madras.
 - Appa: Nalini's father.

Point of view

In *A Handful of Rice*, the author plays the role of point of view. She uses autobiographical narrative method in the novel.

Imagery As a literary device, imagery consists of descriptive language which will function as how for the reader to raised imagine the planet of the piece of literature and also add symbolism to the work. Imagery draws on the five senses, namely the small print of taste, touch, sight, smell, and sound. In *A Handful of Rice*, Kamala Markandaya uses very digestive language.

Symbolism

Rice represents a symbol of poverty in the novel. Setting religious issues as balancing the two different religions in country like India is also crafted by the author.

Tone

Tone in fiction is that the attitude of the narrator or viewpoint character toward story events and other characters. *A Handful of Rice* represents Indian scene of rural and urban poverty. The author depicts poverty as reality and some social evils of urban India in this novel.

Plot: A Handful of Rice

The plot of the novel comprises occasions and episodes. Such occasions or occurrences happen in the life of human, who fundamental to shape the plot of the novel. Without human activity can't continue and stays insignificant. These human either male or female have their own characteristics or characters, which frame characters of the novel. The author worried to make characters, in spite of the fact that a novel is a totality and must be evaluated in general. Portrayal is a piece of such a totality. Thus, here again people have a place with

various status, and positions. In the present examination, characters of *A Handful of Rice* are having a place with different status. The fundamental character of a novel assumes job of agent of all components of novel like; plot, exchange, time of activity, place of activity and analysis of life-all out brought together impact. The inquiry on inspirational variables of Ravi to get by against neediness and his pitiable life. In *A Handful of Rice* is described in the novel.

A Handful of Rice is set up with a story of a poor Ravi, a man from a small village migrates to urban in search of better earning. Ravi is shown as Rebellion and strong-willed youth. He has dreams on his better life style and greater recognition as an educated youth. Mukherjee Meenakshi narrates Indian social values and their situation as: "modern Indian is torn in a conflict between two kinds of values, supremacy of social hierarchy and emergence of the individual. Sometimes the conflict neatly resolves into two issues, duty to the family and personal fulfillment. The fulfillment of oneself, however desirable a goal according to the individualistic ideals of Western society, has always been alien to Indian tradition, especially when it is achieved at the cost of duty to the family" (Mukherjee Meenakshi, 1974:8)¹

Indian social hierarchy and emergence of the individual are in conflict at present times and as a result, personal fulfillment and duties towards family members of a responsible family member get clash with each other. Sometimes cost of duty towards family in Indian society gets priority. Ravi is the best example of it. Economic inequality in metro life like; Chennai is depicted by the author in *A Handful of Rice*. Ravishankar, a protagonist of *A Handful of Rice* appears in the opening scene who is drunken and threatens with forced entry in a house with the following words:

"I'm hungry, I want a meal. You let me in, do you hear? I'll give you one minute." (Markandaya Kamala, 1985:6)²

Then he breaks the rusty bars of window and demands for food. Here, his violent nature is exposed and the author successfully tries to establish such a main character in the minds of readers. Ravi is one of the examples of poor fellow of post-independence era of country like India. Ravi's friend Convict also has similar background in terms of culture and financial strength. Both lived in village struggled for money. Thus, Ravi's migration and quest for comfort life is depicted by the author.

To conclude, Ravi is a symbol of

Indian traditional society who revolts against traditions of the society and wants to establish own framed rules. He rebels against Indian traditions and beurocracy. He wants to identify “self” amongst the equal social communities. He wants to reassemble the social norms which can provide better life to the poor. The novelist put the issue of redefining immorality due to poverty and hunger before the readers. In fact, Damodar is a symbol of West and Ravi is a symbol of East. The novelist crafted west and east encounter in form of Damodar and Ravi. It is to be concluded that the people of East are traditional by temperament and they never allow to leave their Sanskaras ever though they have an acidic period.

WORK CITED

- [1]. Mukherjee Meenakshi, The Themes and Techniques of the Indian Novels in English, Arnold Heinemann, New Delhi 1974 p-8
- [2]. Makandaya Kamala, A Handful of Rice, Oriental Paper Backs, New Delhi,1985, p-6
- [3]. Makandaya Kamala,A Handful of Rice, Oriental Paper Backs, New Delhi,1985, p-49
- [4]. Makandaya Kamala, A Handful of Rice, Oriental Paper Backs, New Delhi, 1985, p-86
- [5]. Makandaya Kamala, A Handful of Rice, Oriental Paper Backs, New Delhi, 1985, p-229
- [6]. Reddy K.Venkata ,, A Tryst with Conscience : A Handful of Rice, Major Indian Novelists: M. R. Anand, R. K. Narayana, Raja Rao, Bhabani Bhattachary, Kamala Markandaya ,Prestige Books,1990, p-158 ,
- [7]. Makandaya Kamala, A Handful of Rice, Oriental Paper Backs, New Delhi, 1985, p-237