

SOCIAL PREDICAMENTS IN KAMALA MARKANDAYA'S "*NECTAR IN A SIEVE*"

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ABSTRACT

This Novel "*Nectar in a sieve*" deliver the eternal message of truth and sufferings of villagers and workers of the ancient India. Poverty is one of the main of this novel. The novel reveals impact of Modernism on rural Land is one of the suffering s of rural people. This impact becomes the cause of their despair. Rukmani and Nathan is the example of the rural dwellers. The flow of life in an Indian village has been realistically discussed with sympathy and skill. Thus the image of rural life is comprehensive and very outstanding. Indian peasants face heart-rending suffering because of natural Phenomena. Indian peasants are basically poor therefore they often faces starvation whenever they does not get harvest in a proper manner. These sufferings are caused not only by the natural happenings but also by the general people as we observe in the case of Nathan who has to face the ill-treatment of the upper class. This novel gives Indian experience of tragic heights of stress , but through the commoner dilemmas of ordinary people like Rukmani in "*Nectar in a sieve*" torn between traditional values and those spawned by modernism.

KEY WORDS: spawned

INTRODUCTION

Indian English Literature pertains to the body of work by written from India, who pen strictly in the English Language and whose native or co-native language could be one of the numerous regional and indigenous languages of India. Kamala Markandaya (1924) was born in Mysore and in an-affluent and aristocratic Brahmin family of South India. Kamala Markandaya first novel, *Nectar in a Sieve*, was published in 1954, and has been translated into fifteen languages. The struggle is between man and overpowering suspense and no inner conflict. The

struggle is between man and overpowering hunger. The story is told in the first person narrative. This novel around some important character, Rukmani, Nathan

Kenny, Arjun, Murugan, Raja, Selvam.

SOCIAL PREDICAMENT OF KARMADA MARKANDAY'S NECTAR IN SIEVE.

The title of the novel '*Nectar in a Sieve*' is taken from the poem 'Work Without Hope' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Kamala Markandaya uses the lines of Coleridge as an epigraph: "work without hope draws in a sieve, and hope without an object cannot live." These lines contain the main idea or theme of this novel. Indian farmer cultivate the rice field standing and sweating in the hot rays of the sun. Rice for him is like nectar . It cannot be held back in a sieve rice slips down through the fingers of poor farmers and disappears in the pockets of the landlords and money Landers .It is primarily a tale of rural life in south India. Mrs.Markanday's novels vividly record the poverty , stricken, heart breaking existence of the people of rural as she deals with the everyday problems of the rural community. Her depiction of these rural folk is not partial. Kamala Markandaya has industrialization upon rural beings. Mrs.Markandaya gives a true picture of rural India.

An additional qualification in her novels is that she produces marvelous stories. The novelist seems to have a belief in the observation that story is the most important ingredient of a novel. *Nectar in a sieve* has become the most remarkable novel of the novelist because of its well-constructed plot. The plot of the novel reveals many events which are developed in a systematic and chronological manner. The policy of picking, choosing, and selecting characters becomes the purpose of the novel. The novel has been penned with a definite purpose. The events of the novel are linked with one another in a proper manner. The novelist does not present her novels loose in form. Through the structure of her plot construction reveals conventional pattern. The change of logical development makes the plot more remarkable. The novel is an eloquent cry of despair, It deals with a dilemma between personal-relationship and racial prejudice. The core of the novel is political. It is a tragedy, engineered by politics, as nectar in a sieve is a tragedy engineered by economics. The novelist conveys a strong message that failure of life modifies the general behavior of the common, people. Mrs.Markandaya characters belong to every class of society. She takes characters from the people rich class on the other. But one thing is quite sure about her, that she delineates her women characters more beautifully than the male characters. The novelist presents natural aspects of rural India in her description of ripening mangoes and setting of flocks of parrots in the tress. Intimate presentation of rural Indian manners. It is mainly concerned with the dowry problem early marriage, death scenes and other scenes which we often come across in the rural society. She is successful in plumbing the psychological depths of her heroines. Mrs.Markandaya does not idealize her characters .They are life-like beings to whom sex is very common. Mrs.Makadaya has not limited the range of the themes of her novels. Besides these above-said aspects, she of the fallen women in her novels in detail. Her presentation of the fallen women is a realistic and sympathetic. She concludes in many of her

novels that the lack of the uniformity of moral standards for both man and women. She treats of almost new themes in each novel with minor repetitions. Mrs. Markadaya's works reveal various the social problem in nectar in a sieve the novelist's purpose is to depict rural problems, she points out how the heavy rain or the drought effect the general life of farmers. She also throws light on pathetic condition of the tenant farmers. Common problem like the problem of unemployment and the problem of fallen women have been discussed by her in detail. In nectar in a sieve Nathan and Rukmani have to face a severe disgust with seven members in their family. Kamala Markandaya's nectar in a sieve she discusses the poverty of Indian villages. It is the story of the conjugal life of Nathan and Rukmani, the peasants poverty forces them to wander from door in search of rice. She also presents the problem of beggar's. In the novel the pressure of hunger and poverty. Characters have to search of food and they meet a tragic end. In nectar in a sieve Arjun and Murugan leave for Ceylon to get job.

Kamala Markadaya is a distinguished and remarkable novelist regarding her psychology of human nature. She understands well the inner conflicts of human life. Her characters belong to the middle class families. She depicts their psychological problems; she knows how to deal with the problem of conscience of middle class people. Her characters face the problem of conscience of middle class people. Her characters face the problem of conscience to a great extent and the result is that their psychology regarding the ways of life is misshaped. In nectar in a sieve Rukmani's son leaves the village and hopes to make a better living in the town. Mrs. Markadaya's portrayal of her major characters reveals her humanitarian outlook. For example Rukmani is a village symbol of all affection and sympathy. The daughter of a village headman, She is married to Nathan, a poor tenant farmer who ranks below her in status. Mrs. Markadaya is primarily a social critic. She tells us how the heavy rain or the drought affects the general life of the farmers. She also throws light on the conditions of the tenant farmers. Common problems like the problems of population, Unemployment and the fallen women have been discussed in the novel in detail.

Mrs. Markadaya is a primarily a humanitarian novelist. Her large-heartedness humanitarian sympathies, abundant kindness, good nature everywhere in her description of the various social problems. Nathan and Rukmani fail in searching their son, Murugan in the city, they take shelter in a temple where beggars reside and they come in contact with Puli, an abandoned boy. Nathan dies because of his illness and Rukmani has to return to her village. Puli also accompanies her. In Nectar in a sieve Arjun and Thanbi, represents of village workers in the tannery, go to it. But due to some trouble, they were exploiting the workers. They start a movement against the tannery owners as they were exploiting the workers. They are expelled, only to face the pangs of unemployment. In his report that he had stole a calf skin while they forget that they have also swallowed someone's land or maid an of village. But that innocent Labour is put to death, while the tannery owners prosper more and more. It shows the helplessness of the rural beings in the pitiless hands of industrialization. When Raja's fellow workers as Rukmani to try to get compensation, she refuses. The entire episode speaks of the cruelty and heartlessness of industrialization. Mrs. Markandaya tries to show the struggle of the common rural people against industrialization, and the sufferings they experience on its account. In her novels the tension

prevailing in the Indian experience is realized not through the tragic heights of Tess, but through the commoner dilemmas of ordinary people like

“ I watched with heavy hearts while the waters rose and rose

And the tender green of paddy field sank under and was lost.

It is a bad season , Nathan said somberly .The rains have

Destroyed much of our work; There will be little eating

Done this year”.(NS:42)

Rukmani in *Nectar in a sieve* torn between traditional values and those spawned by modernism. Mrs. Markadaya is thematically related to social, economic, cultural, and historical, problems. Poverty is also one of the main themes of her novels. Through poverty she shows how the life of extreme disappointment dominates people. In *Nectar in a sieve* Nathan and Rukmani are always facing dejection and only the philosophy of fatalism gives them some strength. The autobiographical narrative of Rukmani presents this aspects of human assistance which is tragic reality in the lives of the village folk. The tragedy of the downfall of Rukmani and Nathan is caused by a number of factors- Zamindari system, industrial economy, tannery, and exodus of her sons and vigorous of nature. Through Rukmani, the novelist has tried to feel hunger in the following word for hunger is curious thing at first, it is a gnawing pain as if your very vitals were being devolved and you know and fear the sequel. Then the pain is no longer sharp but dull, and this too is with you always, so that you think of food many times a day and each time a terrible sickness assails you, and because you knew this, you try to avoid the thought but you cannot, is with you. Therefore, is obvious that *Nectar in a sieve* is an eloquent cry of despair. All the characters of third novel fight against and in this struggle that are defeated. But the way through which they fight, proves that they are defeated. But the way through which they fight, proves that they are optimistic, regarding their struggles. Dr.Kenny is surprised at their ways of life and he shows anger against their impractical feelings of optimism.

CONCLUSION

This is a story about the struggle between life and death for the very poor in an unjust society. *Nectar in a sieve* presents homely love and homely sacrifice as the most important aspect of life. While this point of view is beautiful and inspiring it's also poignant because Rukmani's deep love for her homely coexists with her inability to protect and provide for them.

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