

Gandhism reflected in Raja Rao's Kanthapura

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Abstract:

In Indian writing in English, the writers in the early decades of the 20th century were deeply influenced by Gandhiji and his ideology. The central point of this paper is to find out Gandhism in the novel Kanthapura. At that time, we can see that there were many writers like R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao who have been very much impressed by Gandhian ideology and they have traced it in their novels. So, Gandhi was not only a freedom fighter but he was an era in Pre-Independence and Post-Independence time. Gandhiji gave upwardness to downtrodden people and tried to remove casteism

Key words: Gandhiji, ideology, untouchable, casteism, freedom movement

Introduction:

Raja Rao was born in Hassan, Mysore now in south India. He has portrayed ideals of Gandhiji in his novels. Gandhi was the first Indian national leader and he has many social, political, economical changes in our society by his principles. Gandhiji was exclusive character of society because he has given equality to our people in outside also. Literature was greatly influenced by Gandhian Philosophy and ideology. The Gandhian impact we can see in contemporary literature

Raja Rao's novel 'Kanthapura' depicts the impact of Gandhi and his principles like non-violence, truth, equality etc. Rao has published Kanthapura in 1938 and he has created different characters on the image of Mahatma Gandhiji. Kanthapura is the village of South India and many young freedom fighters remained in this village. In this novel Moorthy is the protagonist and imagine as a Gandhiji. As Meenakshi Mukherjee said,

"The characteristically concrete imagination of the uneducated mind

pictures the Mahatma as large and blue like the Sahyadri Mountain on whose slopes the pilgrims climb ceremony to which she devotes her sacred ardour."

Moorthy is the model of Gandhiji. He has face many problems but he attached to freedom movement of India. Kanthapura is a village which represents the struggle of India during the freedom movement. In this village we can see that the struggle between Brahmins and Pariah family shows the Indian social unrest. Moorthy is the small mountain compared to Gandhiji but he is the image of Gandhiji in Kanthapura. Moorthy is the person who has enliven 'Hind Swaraj' and it influenced upon them and he spreads non violence, equality, justice, courage etc. Rao didn't described directly but through character he has created Gandhism in novel.

Untouchability is the other taboo of India. At that time condition of our society is so difficult related to downtrodden people or lower caste people. God created to equal all but some upper communities created this type of bias in our society. Casteism is spoiled our society. Gandhiji given

name “Harijan” to Dalit community who have tolerance more in our society. Harijan means people of God. Gandhiji concerns about them and their problems. In Kanthapura we can see this type of situation and if Moorthy helps to lower caste people then he excluded by his Brahmin community. But Moorthy always standing with downtrodden people.

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In reality downtrodden people give to high place because they do clean our society. Gandhiji eradicated to untouchability from our society but sometimes we can see at minor level. Like many young people Moorthy left worldly pleasures and he wants to join freedom Movement and he did it and didn't want to marry and he went to against to his mother. He works for the betterment of Pariah community which is lower caste of Kanthapura village.

Conclusion:

So, Kanthapura is the novel based on Gandhian Philosophy and ideals. Raja Rao has created different character Moorthy who is Gandhi of Kanthapura village. In this reference we said that Gandhi is ‘Big Mountain’ and Moorthy is ‘Small Mountain’. In this novel Moorthy fight against British and he arrested by them but he always attached Gandhian ideals and he attached many young people in freedom Movement.

Reference:

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