



An Evaluation of the Impact and Philosophy of R.K. Narayanan's Ideas in the Indian Social Context

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ABSTRACT

R.K. Narayan was an sharp observer of twentieth-century society, This is the reason, and his works include many components of societal conventions. . His psychological phenomena are visible in his works and writings because they stand for the actual essence of Indian life and culture. Narayan has numerous issues, which is why his works are so significant. Sometime he has written is completely relevant to his experience, and we can see his hand and mind working together so well. This study examines R.K Narayan's social philosophy and how his formative experiences influenced his work. Swami and Friends was his first work based on childhood experiences, making it a semi-autobiographical content. It was a well-known episode in the television series "Malgudi Days". via his works, one may learn about the true condition of women. In the novel "The Guide," Narayan portrays women via the character of Rosie. She is the protagonist who struggles with conventional conventions and the desire for liberty. Narayan's women were backward and felt guilty about protesting for their rights.

Keywords: Indian Society, Ordinary People, British Colonial Governance, Religion, Caste, Emotion, Marital Status, Women Rights

1. INTRODUCTION

R. K. Narayan, whose full name is Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan, is one of the best Indian novelists of his time who writes in English. His father was a regional headmaster. He spent his early childhood in Madras with his maternal grandmother, Parvathi, and would only see his parents and siblings for a few weeks each summer. He attended Lutheran Mission School, which is adjacent to his grandmother's home in Madras, for eight years and briefly attended CRC High School. When his father was appointed headmaster of the Maharaja's High School in Mysore, R.K. Narayan returned with his parents. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Mysore. He is well-known for his fictional works, yet he did not begin his publishing career with one. His first article was a book review titled The Development of Maritime Laws in 17th-century England. Later, he wrote short stories for a local newspaper. Along with writing for local newspapers and magazines, Narayan was working on his first book, "Swami and Friends," which he finished in 1930. He also established his own publishing business, "Indian Thought Publications," in Mysore in 1942. In 1980, he was nominated for RajyaSabha, the Upper House of Indian Parliament, in recognition of his remarkable contributions to literature. R.K. Narayan's illustrious literary career came to a conclusion with his last book "Grandmother's Tale" in 1992. On May 13, 2001, R.K. Narayan died at the age of 94 in Chennai.

2.LITRATURE REVIEW

(Das et al.,2019) A properly structured board of directors with the authority to act independently in the firm's best interest is the foundation of good corporate governance. Everyone agrees that better decisions are made when boards include women or women from varied backgrounds and experiences on the board. This is because they may look at problems and their solutions from many angles. The association between company profitability and the number of female directors is objectively investigated in this study. Fifteen Indian public corporations are the subject of the research. This study's results show that publicly listed companies' financial

performance is significantly improved when female directors are on the board. This study's findings offer Indian organizations a solid scientific basis for creating the best board structure for their company. Furthermore, this study adds to the current literature by providing empirical information that clarifies the effect of corporate governance, and more especially the number of female directors, on business results in the setting of India, a typical developing nation. In order to improve long-term profitability and financial sustainability, Indian firms should think about having women on their boards and in top management roles.

(Jha et al.,2023) In Bihar alone, more than a million people lost their lives during the 1918–19 influenza pandemic. During the outbreak, the death toll in Bihar was greater than in other eastern Indian states. Why was the rural death rate higher than the urbanized death rate? How much did the epidemic change the economical and social problems that followed? This report provides an in-depth examination of the socioeconomic context of the epidemic in Bihar. It delves into how the disease grew unbearable for the populace due to a number of causes, including a terrible economic crisis brought on by the war and failed monsoons. Inadequate health facilities, high population density, agricultural failure, inflation, and other factors are the focus of this research, which aims to provide light on their connections to rural mortality rates. In addition, it shows how the young age people affected forcefully movement and departure during the pandemic reduced birth rates in the years after the outbreak, which in turn reduced the workforce and made the agricultural crisis worse.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. Examination of R.K. Narayan Impact and Philosophy of R.K. Narayanan's Ideas Indian social philosophy
2. The impact of his early childhood and post childhood literary work

4. ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH OF R.K. NARAYAN

● R.K. Narayan and His Modern Environment

Author R.K. Narayan has written on the real-life experiences of ordinary people. He completed his work taking into account the social, political, economic, and religious climate of the day. Since he did not come from a wealthy household, he has a keen sense of observation about the circumstances he faced at the time, and his works reflect the period in which he lives. The events taking on in society served as an inspiration for his grounded character. Themes from Narayan's novels and short tales are given a bright life by means of historical analysis of commonplace events. He covers a broad range of human experience, from children's harmless jokes to major societal unrest, from the suffering of the average person to the interaction between parents and children, from traditional social customs and superstition to the supernatural. He really is a wonderful, thoughtful writer of short stories and novels who genuinely loves his nation and its people. He enjoys using euphemism in his critique and is quite skilled at conveying harsh truths in a gentle way. His writing effectively conveys to the reader the kindness and compassion of his nation. The British colonial era in India served as an inspiration for R.K. Narayan's works. Every area of India was affected by British colonial control; children were not exempt from this terrible circumstance. These political circumstances served as inspiration for him when he created the book *Swami and Friends* in the 1930s. The complexity of British colonial rule over India is explained in this book. The political background of the protagonist and his companions tainted their personal experiences, even if the book's events center on typical juvenile tolerance and complexity. and the spiritual milieu of the day valued his work as well. There is no denying the spirituality of modern Indian civilization; karma, reincarnation stories, and the notion of dharma are all ingrained in Indian culture. The social, cultural, moral, and philosophical aspects of life greatly value Narayan's writing on the social circumstances of his day. The first English-language book to win the Sahitya Akademi Award was "The Guide," which was published in 1960. The novel was adapted into a play (1968) and a film (1965) with the same name (Osborne- Bartucca, 2019). Describe the protagonist's journey from "Railway Raju" to "Saint Raju" in "The Guide." The protagonist's metamorphosis revealed information about religious and societal conventions. We shall learn about several facets of Indian life, particularly south Indian culture, via the description of this tour. These include the religious character of Indians, the contrast between the affluent and common people, the blending of eastern and western cultures, and human emotions like love and hunger for wealth. These were the two epics, "The Mahabharata" and "The Ramayana," which served as the inspiration for the majority of R.K. Narayan's writings. The Puranic tradition served as an inspiration for the personas of Krishnan, Raju, and Swaminathan. Common folks, sanyasis, and sadhus are all fighting for a healthy lifestyle. The majority of his work is centered on his struggles as a child as a result of the social and religious structures in his community. Because of social pressure, Chandran was unable to marry the girl he fell in love with in *The Bachelor of Arts* because she is a Manglik, and in India, it is believed that only Mangliks can marry other Mangliks, or else one of the partners will eventually pass away. In "The Guide," Rosie comes from a family of temple dancers known as Devadasis.

● The Social Philosophical Approach of R.K. Narayan

One of the greatest stars in literary history is R.K. Narayan. His novels served as a subtle but effective tool for social improvement. Through his writings, we shall learn how R.K. Narayan developed a plan for raising society's standards. Through his published works, we may witness the reflection of social philosophy in the 20th century. He participated in social activism and worked in a variety of societal sectors. His understanding of middle class households is excellent. According to the guy who is certain he belongs in the latter group, "the difference between an intelligent man and a simpleton is that the former wholeheartedly accepts all that he sees and hears, while the latter never admits anything except after a most searching scrutiny." He views his intellect as a finely woven mesh sieve that only allows the best to flow concluded.

● **The Spirituality and British Colonial Control of R.K. Narayan**

Narayan describes his own writing style in straightforward terms. He has taken Hindu social and cultural life extremely seriously and in a genuine manner. The 20th century saw a number of social issues, including affluent and poor, hypocrisy, castesim, and foolishness. His works had an influence on the society's religious components as well, as individuals began to engage in "Purian" and "Upnishad." Lord Krishna states in The Bhagwad Geeta, "I created the fourfold system in accordance with varying disposition and the actions (resulting from them)." As a consequence, society will have reached the pinnacle of casteism. Consider Dalits in the flow of Indian literature and the spotlight of the Indian literary world. In the early 20th century, the major source of inspiration for upper-caste mainstream authors was Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi really had an impact on much Indian writing throughout the first half of the 20th century, even on regional literatures. Gandhi's charitable beliefs and deeds were strongly represented in the talks of that time. Dr. Ambedkar has previously accepted the fight for Dalits' human rights since 1920, particularly with regard to their difficulties. His fight was quite focused and logical. However, the well-known author of the time did not consider or take note of what Dr. Ambedkar had accomplished for the Dalits. However, Dr. Ambedkar's plea was taken seriously by the British administration when making judgments. However, in the literary realm, R. K. Narayan deftly and artistically depicts these concerns in his "Malgudi World." This is the primary action taken by R.K. Narayan to improve society. He has given the true account of the Dalits' sociocultural existence at that time period, which no one else included in their works. This was the social reformation's pivotal action.

● **Political Approach**

Since politicians are the foundation of every nation, he brought up political concerns in India in his 1955 book "Waiting for Mahatma" and discussed true leadership. It seems that he is still trying to educate young people about the need of becoming excellent leaders in the future via his book. Narayan discussed the ugliest and most idealistic aspects of colonial and post-colonial India in general. Narayan has selected Indian socio-cultural and political contexts as the novel's topics, following in the footsteps of the majority of Indian English fiction authors of the post-independence period. He has also looked at how the east and west are related. He has also uncovered fictionalized versions of history and mythology around this time. Most of them center the story on national identity and national boundaries.

● **Social Phenomenon Approach**

He bases his thesis on the many marital problems that exist in our culture, such as child marriage, remarriages, and problems with love marriages. Because conventional culture will stop at nothing to prevent love weddings and will always pick who a person must marry. For those who have hopes for their lover, this will be quite challenging. Because they eloped with each other after being married, this kind of situation turns into a felony. It is illegal in society for there to be extramarital relationships. In some instances, they are compelled to marry someone older than they are by force. The author of "The Bachelor of Arts" concentrates on the aforementioned ideas, showing how Chandran falls in love with Malathi and how her father's rejection of their romance later on would wreck Chandran's life. However, he eventually found love, but a wonderful period of his life was lost. His stories provide us with a wealth of social philosophy and the kinds of thoughts that individuals were carrying around with them. In "The Dark Room," Naryan sheds light on lustful and unclean characters, such as Savitri's husband, who is always interested in charming other women.

● **Social Relationships with Humans and Non-Humans**

Developing positive relationships with people, whether they be human or not, is one of Narayn's social techniques. However, a well-reasoned community also values having good-hearted men. The current book "The Man Eater of Malgudi" is also a social philosophical book built on the idea that good actions always triumph over wicked ones. As everyone is aware, he is a deeply ingrained member of society who aspires to alter it by soft-spoken, delegative leadership.

● **Educational Approach**

His writings emphasize English education, which may be seen as a negative reflection of his bitterness against the effects of colonialism on India. Narayan returns to the topic of Indian schooling. His novels show that he was concerned about a fundamental Gandhian movement problem, which was that English education in India was a total waste. (Jha121) As a result, the melancholy topic expressed in Narayan's writings is that of young people moving away from their own schooling. The influence of English education on Indian schooling is

evident. By using Swami's narrative, Narayan demonstrates the necessity for cognitive development and the acquisition of thinking abilities in youngsters as opposed to just factual knowledge. Youngsters desire to be free to inhabit the realm of their wild imagination, free from the constraints of reason and reasoning. In writing this book, Narayan reminisced about his distant childhood and shed light on his own childhood by portraying it in all its vivid detail.

• Justification

R.K. Narayan has great popularity in India and other nations, particularly in the United States and England. He is likened to Faulkner in America. His writing style is distinct, and the British Council featured his work. works with pride among the other Indian authors, he was the only one with a diverse personality and appeal. A unique distinction, his short tales were picked up and aired by B.B.C. He was honored with a D. Litt degree from Delhi University and the University of Leeds. His writings are all divided by the pursuit of aesthetic pleasure. He never considered the possibility of using art as a means of pursuing a career, like Mulk Raj Anand did. He presents a pure translation of Indian life for "the art for readers." His ability to convey to the readers this gesture of joy and contentment in life is what makes him a brilliant writer. Although his critique is sharp, it can never be aggressive, and his books, which capture the kindness and compassion of Indian social life, provide the finest side of existence. He rejects the adoption of the town/country divide as a humanist. Men have a variety of attributes; given their surroundings, they might be excellent or harmful. They were naturally shaped by both their actions and his surroundings. We may find good, evil, and murders in Narayan Village, along with the lustful and foolish things that people do. The elite group was incompetent and corrupt. Narayan's research sheds light on the notion of corruption, which is prevalent in several books written by a certain group.

5. CONCLUSION

During the 20th century, India achieved freedom, which brought up several societal issues that Narayan adeptly represented. One may learn about 20th-century Indian social philosophy by reading this study. The book "The Guide" authored by R. K. Narayan is widely regarded as the finest novel. The book demonstrates how society views women as nothing more than objects that men may use to fulfill their desires via the figure of Rosie. Women have always had to fight for their identity, their happiness, and their very survival in a society where males predominate. However, they continue to struggle for their independence, existence, and rights. A well-known book with a similar premise, *The Guide*, follows the journey of a young dancer called Rosie. Later, she takes on the persona of Nalini, a woman who battles against all odds to forge her own identity inside the patriarchal circle. R.K. Narayan analyzed all of these issues and societal phenomena, which have a significant influence on Indian culture. His portrayal of both male and female characters allows us to comprehend the societal processes from question.

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