



# PERSPECTIVES ON INDIAN DALIT LITERATURE

**Critical Responses**

**Dipak Giri**



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**Savitribai College of Arts**  
Pimpalgaon Pisa, Tal. Shrigonda, Dist. Ahmednagar

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# CHAPTER

## Adiga's Perspectives to the Untouchability

Dr. Ghegade Shantilal Indrabhan

The terms class, gender, culture and identity are related to each other, because it is said that gender crisis gives rise to identity crisis. All of these terms are to be studied in social context. Two types of people are there in a society- rich and poor. Now in the twenty first century also, there are people in society who don't have their daily bread and butter and in the same society, these are people who do not have enough to count their property. The study goes to deal with untouchability, depressed and privileged class, gender and identity crisis in Adiga's selected post-modern Indian English novels.

The class conflict is found, as one of the post-modern elements in Adiga's *The White Tiger*. The novel consists of high and low class people and how the low class people suffer because of the lack of money. The class is determined on economic situation. Low class people even may not fulfil their basic needs. Haleem who is the central character in the novel comes from Jalwal (sweet-maker) profession, whose father wanted to make him educated but his destiny is different and becomes a car driver because of the company of his brother who used to work at tea



*[Handwritten Signature]*

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shop. He couldn't have and education. Mr. Ashok is a business through which it is noticed that rich people can have higher education whereas poor class people are kept away from that right directly or indirectly. Rich becomes richer and poor becomes poorer. Though Balram was wise he doesn't have his education because educational atmosphere is not there at his home. When Balram is in search of a job Mr. Ashok employs him as a car-driver. Though the poor class people are educated they are very faithful and sentimental towards the other people who are noticed when Balram pays his salary to his grandmother Kusum regularly.

*The White Tiger* seems innovative in initiating a different kind of theme to renew the concept of ethics. It deals with Balram Halwai's participation in numerous social activities. The novel is concentrated on him, a son of a rickshaw puller, intended to make sweets becomes Ashok Sharma. These forces together operate to continue the underclass. This underclass establishes Dark India.

The novel can also be evaluated as a socialist strategy trying to pull to pieces the discrimination between the "Big Bellies and the Small Bellies" and change an democratic society. The larger painting of the novel discusses the Dark pictures of India. Some critics have raised misgiving over his undue emphasis to this miserable portrayal. Adiga disproved that the novel was an occurrence on the growth story of India: At a time when India is going through great vicissitudes and, with China, is likely to receive the world from the West, it is important that writers like For Indians there is nothing new about this territory. West is holding up *The White Tiger* mirror to us. It is telling us that India is not outstanding and despite its claims of a prosperous economy, it is still "near-heart of darkness", which it has been since time immemorial.

While the novel transfers from country to city, the whole world of underclass also travels—their exploitation and sorrows



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With the laborers working in the industrial set-up, taxi and auto drivers, servants, prostitutes, beggars, poor and trembling lots hiding under flyovers, slum-dwellers, fraudulent police, lawful and clerical structure, unfriendly master-servant relationship underclass emerges. Big cities like Delhi and Bangalore witness both kinds of India. Murder of Ashok by Balram is the response of deep-rooted hindrance of underclass experiencing the schisms between the upper class and lower class. Apart from these, pollution, frantic routine of life, harmful possessions of mobile, influence of city culture etc. create new terrains of Darkness in India. Thus, Adiga has successfully highlighted the subaltern issue in the novel and brought home the idea that in the story of India's progress role of the underclass is important. He, as a communist manifesto, pleads strongly for the classless society.

*Between the Assassinations* is the second book published by the author though he had written it before *The White Tiger*. The novel deals with the period between the assassination of Indira Gandhi and Rajeev Gandhi in 1984 and 1991 respectively. Indira Gandhi was brutally killed by her own guards during her tenure as the Prime minister. Rajeev Gandhi fell a prey to a suicide attacker during the election rally. The novel is set in the small town of Kittur very near to the author's home town of Mangalore. The book is a collection of small stories. In each story, new set of characters is introduced, though the same places appear again in other stories.

Pathan Ziauddin worked in a small shop of Ramanna Shetly because he had nobody else to go to. Though Muslim by birth, he was not spoiled by fanatic Muslims in the beginning. But soon people planted the idea that he came from brave fighters' race in Afghanistan. He was arrested twenty one times for breaking copy right rule because nobody considered it a serious crime, but it could not last long. Police caught him selling Xerox copies of *Natani* Verses. Nobody bothered to treat him as a respectable human being. Brahmin Jayamma is the central character of the



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next story. Jayamma, who was a ninth of the eleven children of her parents, was hired to look after the family of a lawyer. Though she was pretty senior, the lawyer never respected her due to her grumbling nature. A close look at the stories in this book brings to our notice.

Adiga concerns for the derelict section of the society. He has all the sympathy for the underdogs of the society. According to him, underprivileged people misbehave out of compulsion and not out of fashion. He sometimes justifies the untoward behavior of such character. His novel becomes yet another testament of the heroic encounter of the ordinary, freedom-loving separate against the neo-colonial services of the State. The Indian Nation and Adiga's work Aravind Adiga's work services we to take a new look at ourselves as a nation.

Adiga's book is a factual re-appraisal of India in a precrisis time period. In his book *Being Indian*, he created an image of India as ever democratic, peaceful, non-violent, religious, other worldly and spiritual. The second story of Abbasi, a factory owner who fights against the exploitation, jeopardizing his living, shows how the corrupt system and white colored gentlemen suffocate a nation. In fact, corruption charges led to the fall of Rajiv's administration.

There is the story of a Dalit bookseller, Xerox Ramakrishna, who feels proud in selling unlawfully photocopies of books at little charges, for his father's profession was washing the toilets of rich proprietors with his garment. But, when he is caught selling Rushdie's 'Satanic Verses', the upper caste Inspector takes preference in contravention his legs, though Xerox pleads unawareness of the veto on the book. Once out of the hospital, Xerox openly challenges the police and plans to sell only one book "banned throughout the Republic of India" 'Satanic Verses'. For the policeman and the lawyer who torment him, Adiga emphasizes the fact that except social insolences change, no amount of quotas will lend self-esteem to the subjugated.



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settings in jail and the corruption of the police power reflect the regretful state of the criminal impartiality system in India. Also, we meet a college student, Shankara Kinni who torments a bomb in class to punish those who embarrass him for being a half-caste.

Adiga schemes the penetrating desire of an older generation to find safety in caste and of an sophisticated young generation to be "free" of this "disgusting" creation of their descendants. It is made clear that, on the eve of the 21st century, no religion in India is permitted from this system. The prevention and dissatisfaction that ripened in that epoch have resulted today in Naxalism and intimidation. Shankar's act of exploding a bomb sounds so acquainted in this age of terror.

Meanwhile, Adiga delivers a caste and religious cessation of the 1981 survey of Kittur, where 89 people out of more than a lakh affirm themselves free of religion and caste. The episode takes place against the larger milieu of moral, social and political squalor in the country. A man signifies the resignation of Indians when he says that everything has been falling separately in this country since Mrs. Gandhi was shot. We're not meant to be masters of our own fortune. Finally, the story of a disenchanted old Communist, Comrade Murali, is the story of how Marxism, idealism and all other political philosophies have failed to elevate the less fortunate in India, as these systems are despairingly out either dated and unreasonable or very unethical.

The struggle between tradition and modernity, which permeates several stories, is also the result of an exclusive communication with the West. Neo-colonialism endures as the leading join hands with western powers to set up territories in India and even witticism or buy the media. The publicity machine in the West declares that the West is aiding the poor East, while in fact prowling it. There is even an English lady who earns a living leaching Yoga to Indians. Each story has dissatisfied poor like Xerox Ramakrishna or George D'Souza or Soumya and Raju who longing for the inspiration of teaching and coinage.



  
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With respect to the themes, the social prejudice accessible in Between the Assassinations flashes up into the cold cruelty of the White Tiger, Balram Halwai. His tragic vision of life where human beings have no way out and yet waste to give up, makes him substantial. In this regard, James Urquhart writes,

Regarding description of characters, Adiga's scrupulous account of men, women and children from all lifestyles makes him a subtle writer. Thus, one can say that it is a sensitive storyteller of modern India. Thus, Soumya Bhattacharya in her book, Miracles of Characterization, writes that, the Independent admires the empathy and insight in his characterization. And about his style, if he is stimulated by Dickens, he has also strained to reproduce R. K. Narayan in describing the beauty, the simultaneous simplicity and complexity of ordinary life in India.

Arvind Adiga has tried to give the respect and dignity to a teacher, who is retired. Dharman Shah, upcoming builder, trying to make the Shanghai of the forty years old Cooperative Housing Society, named Vishram Co-operative Housing Society, Vakola, Santacruz, and South Mumbai. Being a builder his prime aim is to make the profit at the cost of anything. A retired teacher, who is very adorable in the society, is being murdered just because he doesn't want to leave the possession of his flat. Because it was not just the old flat for him but also it's the witness of his two kids: Daughter Sandhy and Son Gaurav's childhood. Where they were crawling and trying to stand on their delicate foot. The main objective of the novel is not only to show the conflict between the builder and the common people but also the generation gap. Gaurav, the only son of Mr. Murthy doesn't admit the behavior of his father. This is the best example of the hands-on behavior of the son. A common man who is representing the Mumbai, which is the city of mill workers, labourers, and migrated people from all over the India whereas, the builder, who is a representative of Bombay, a commercial city, a business hub, and city of opportunities and dreams.



  
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The issues are related to human society, the interaction and reaction of an individual or of a group for the welfare of human beings in a society. The story of Last Man in Tower is set against the backdrop of Mumbai, a bustling financial capital city of India. The novel reveals the perplexing tension between traditional values and modern living, between ideas of development and disorder. Adiga explores the loopholes in administration, disastrous vices, evil of corruption and bribery similar to his first novel. The narrative is built on the themes of power and resistance behind the lopsided development.

The novel demonstrates that one man cannot fight against the entire corrupt system. Those who sympathized with Masterji in the beginning called him mad afterwards. Those who saluted his valor in private criticized him in public. There was nobody to stand by him in his hour of difficulty. He remained the last man in tower.

The writers depict the problems the contemporary people through their works. As Marx said society should be classless, there should not be that much economical difference. All the people should have equal status. As far as gender is concerned, women should not be neglected, degraded only because of their gender being woman. Being woman is not a crime. No author has gone so far in dealing with this aspect in such a unique way. India as a country has grown leaps and bounds but the fact remains that the middle class is still the same and the poor tend to remain poor. The outsourcing aspect is also covered. The upcoming powers, China and India who have been trying to break the monopoly of the western countries have also been dealt in wide range.

Arvind Adiga highlights the effects of globalization and how it is embedded into the general public. The themes have been presented in a significant way. Adiga is the youngest of the bunch of the writers. The White Tiger is a replica of the modern India. The corruption and political situation of the country is explained in depth. Like the previous two novels, this novel also deals with



  
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a wide spectrum of themes. Caste system, untouchability, marriage and feudalism all are covered in this novel. The language and the style of the author have been of superior quality. The racism and the class struggle of the Indian society are also explained in details. The path of corruption taken by the main characters is the main flow of this novel. The way in which personal fortunes and situations improve in a split second is also reflected in this novel.

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