Hunger in Kamala Markandaya’s *A Handful of Rice* and Bhabani Bhattacharya’s *So Many Hungers!*

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Abstract

*Each human being is in a row behind riches in order to fulfil hunger, especially Food. Hunger varies according to the person’s living and stance. Fate also plays an enormous role in the same ferry. If hunger change for poor in the affair of food, it is wealth, blissful living, and Socio-Political status for wealthy person. The poor people are the mere sufferers due to the political and social setting of the country. Injustice forces them to become foodless and their dreams have no value. The researcher focuses on how poor are suppressed and suffer in the phase of different hungers in the chosen novels. The theme of hunger revolves around the two novels Kamala Markandaya’s *A Handful of Rice* and Bhabani Bhattacharya’s *So Many Hungers!* There are similar situations found where poor people face personal as well as social, economical problem due to greedy black-marketers even in spite of having their dream.*
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Most of the deprived people live their incomplete life and they lack to have even the food for living. Their daily needs become question mark when every wealth stagnated in the hands of some greedy rich people. If one person wastes the food, then other may be starving without it. It happens when the greedy one extends their illegal works to grab the resources of the weak people and show dominance through their money and power.

*A Handful of Rice* exemplifies the plight of rural peasants to the new urban lifestyle. She marks out the lane of the rival in the story, Ravi, a countryside peasant who stirred to the metropolis to get away the brutal series of starvation in his rural community. Ravi’s life is full of robberies, alcohol, and prostitutes. He snoozes on the sidewalk and chomps perhaps singleserving of food a day. When he gets a good life, some of the inhuman people took away his hardwork and made him poorer. This shows the poor life of so many people around some of the inhuman rich.

Kamala Markandaya justifies the title*A Handful of Rice* to compose the readers to appreciate the true sense of hunger and starvation. In reality, hunger and starvation lead people to deprivation. She portrays even the minute description of social and political settings in reality. Kamala Markandaya vividly pictures the Indian circumstances of the period and her writing stands to be an evidence for the culture of East and West. Her sole importance exists when her writing focuses on the crisis of Indian life. Rural social problems get a serious place in her writing. Markandaya actively explores the dynamics of socio-cultural problems in the modern world. She differentiates when she blends modernism withtraditionalism to generate the accurate picture about people living.

In the novel*A Handful of Rice*, ‘Jungle’ is used as a symbol to express the struggle of Ravi in city to survive. The Jungle and animal symbols are persistent in her novels.
symbolizing some of the merciless people and their place of living. Markandaya uses the advantage of psychology to keep the reader’s interest throughout the novel. The distinctive features of her novels are the tough narrative patterns, typical element of story with sociological background.

Bhabhani Bhattacharya’s first novel, *So Many Hungers!* (1947) is one of the finest pieces of creative writing about the agonised torment of body and spirit endured during the hideous famine years and the early stages of Second World War in the sacred soil of Bengal. A socio-political novel *So Many Hungers!* is an authentic record of the Bengal famine of 1943 and the Quit India Movement. Bhattacharya has illustrated about the hunger for money, sex, food and for political freedom. The main objective of his writing is to resent the Indian scenario with a view to change it. Being a social realist, he is also engrossed with human predicament.

According to Bhattacharya, the real cause of famine is happened due to the inefficiency or lack of will power of the administration and also due to the black-marketers who accumulated wealth from this critical state. Author pictures out the Bengal famine with all its agonising niceties to bring out the underlying truth that poverty and hunger debase humanity. The survival of man becomes a question as his basic needs fall under scarcity.

Bhabani Bhattacharya works with imagination rejoices the readers. His translating skill shows his wide knowledge about other country languages. His abundant talent of writing amazes the readers and he produces the distinctive portrayal of the calamities of society. He acts as a social realist and activist to create revolution in the corrupting nation. Unlike other social realists, Bhattacharya employs the academic approach to write novels by using satire to create his ideas more corporeal through situational example.
Bhattacharya dramatizes incidents and creates real characters with more clarity. He stands against the tyranny and superstitious belief of the ancient times and also corruption occurs in modern times. He writes novels with the search for identity. *So Many Hungers!* seem to provoke the reader to act as a human for the welfare of other person and also for the nation. His usage of words has the remarkable feature of India. Through the characters, the author rebels against the public evils in the society. Bhattacharya expresses his own view of progressive order in the country to attain social and political freedom.

Both Markandaya and Bhattacharya are indulged in presenting a credible representation of human subsistence. Hunger falls as the main problem in both the novels in which poor people suffer due to some greedy rich people, social setting and economical problems. Solution for the hunger problems is sharing and showing humanity may further make transformation in future.

The socio political theory focuses on the equality of all human has been applied in order to demolish the evils found in the society. Both the novels show the deprivation of weak and poor people cultivated through the corrupting hands of some anti-socialist. Slavery becomes the result of injustice. The theory aims to bring out the justice for the human to gain equality as the consequence.

The scope for further research may be continued with the feministic perspective, historical background, psychological analysis, social realism, Alienation, political implications, social discrimination, exploitation, freedom, Indian culture, regeneration and eco-criticism in the chosen novels.

People who are innocent and economically weak are not given way to lead their life. This sort of circumstance is witnessed in real life situation. Political predicament and societal inconvenience occur when money gets locked in the hands of anti-socialists. Money is
common for everyone and the solution for the economical crisis is to have justice over fund transaction. Everyone in the country may be paid in the similar strategy without any discrimination.

Black marketers in the society may be penalized and abolished permanently. People with humanity may help the deprived to get equality. Reformation is possible when the government rules become stern. Democratic country with sovereignty and liberation brings the parity among people. On the whole, each and every system of the country may revolutionize the ruined condition only when equality stays alive.

Work cited


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