

A Study of Individual Sufferings in the Novel “A Fine Balance” by Rohinton Mistry**N. Kavitha¹, Ph.D Scholar, IACS**

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ABSTRACT: *Life is overwhelmed with many problems at different levels. People are suffered by various reasons that also due to the environment. Human problems are always based upon how to understand sufferings and conflict in the individuals. But sufferings come from uncomfortable situations and feelings that lead with negative emotions to the people. Human beings have not only the physical problems but also more complicated psychological problems. Sufferings are not a mistake that is part of our self's plan too. Suffering is caused by the interpretation of situations. This is natural phenomena, which frequently cause a state of anger, jealousy and sadness. But sufferings can ruin a person or it can make stronger one. Positive way of suffering makes hope, kindness and love. Negative way of suffering creates fear, worries and lack of faith. In this paper, it is to be focused how the individuals are characterized and suffered by themselves and others through the novel “A Fine Balance” by Rohinton Mistry.*

Key Words: *Individuals, Sufferings Rohinton Mistry.*

INTRODUCTION:

The Bhagavad-Gita, the Bible, or any other religious books are explaining the cause of sufferings to the human life. Buddhism mainly points out desire is the root cause of all type of sufferings of human life. Desire is like a tree that has so many branches such as ill, will and anger. The tree is mainly rooted with ignorance and its fruits are problems or sufferings. So suffering has a vital place in human life and has an unavoidable part in the journey of life. Physical, Psychological, Social sufferings have major role in human life and relationship and interlink among them. Physical suffering comes out in many different ways to the people. Physical suffering comes through unfortunate events like accidents. Some physical sufferings are based upon sins and

passions of physical desires like sexual harassment. These are away from our control and situations from the outer world.

Psychological suffering causes of pain to the mind as well as the body. Mainly psychological suffering brings out anxiety, anguish and depression to the people. All ages of people who are suffered by the depression that leads them to a permanent disability and even suicide. The psychological problems always try to find only to rearrange their effects. Social suffering describes collective or individual human suffering associated with the society that shapes or collapses the human by powerful social forces. In 1970s, India faced social unrest that mostly affected poor people and down-trodden. Even to get basic human identity, they have to lose so many things. Land lords and upper-class people also exploited and dominated the poor and down-trodden.

SUFFERINGS OF INDIVIDUALS IN A FINE BALANCE:

In *A Fine Balance*, Rohinton Mistry shows the sufferings of poor characters from the parsi community and atrocities of two untouchables from the village. He uses four main characters a woman and three men. Each of the four protagonists has own story. All four stories coming together, the characters begin to live together under one roof in the city of Bombay. The novel is about sufferings and pain of the poorest people. From this way, *A Fine Balance* is the story of the heroic struggles and hideous misfortunes that is based on physical, psychological and social sufferings.

A Fine Balance is mainly rooted with beautification, sterilization, state-of-emergency, political injuries and domination of land lords. Its protagonists- Dina Dalal, a Parsi widow in Bombay, Ishvar and Omprakash, two village tailors from low caste as labours and Meneck Kohlah, the college-student as paying guest of Dina. They all become victims of the turbulence caused by the state –of – emergency. Their attempts at survival become the microcosm for all the suffering people in India. They are also suffering quite lot to get an identity in their society.

The four main characters converge in Dina's apartment as refugees from contracting caste, gender, or social roles. They each live in an unimportant position in the context of India. They are transferred by the community and try to center their own individuality. The apartment is viewed as the worldly site of individuals in a troublesome society. Their life in Bombay is contrary to their expectations and symbolizes the anguish, pain, anxiety and restlessness of people cut off from their native villages.

Dina fights for her independence and individuality but she faces the continuous failures and threats by society. Finally she loses her flat and forced to her brother's home as a servant. Meneck has a peaceful education in a hill-station then he is sent to the ruthless city by his parents for his higher study. He is continuously humiliated by his seniors in the college. He learns and suffers more from the society at different ways and levels. It affects his mind severely and forced

him to commit suicide on the train tracks. Emergency made both Dina and Maneck fail in their attempts to survive of their life.

Dukhi Mochi id Omprakash's grandfather, a lower caste chamaar. He decides to send his sons, Ishvar and Narayan to city for their better future. When they grow up in the city, Ishvar stays in town as Ashraf's assistant in tailoring shop, Narayan comes back to the village who becomes successful in his life. He has a son, Om, and two daughters. It makes angry and jealousy to the high class people and land lords.

On the Election Day, Narayan goes to the polling booth and tries to register a genuine vote. He fights against the Thakur Dharamsi the local Don for the rights of low class people. But Thakur's men beat Narayan and took him to Thakur's farm. There, Narayan and two companions are tortured and hanged by them. Other untouchables are beaten and their women are raped. At the end, Narayan's entire family is murdered by Thakur. From these causes, Ishvar and Om decide to migrate to Bombay. Ishvar's and Omprakash's life in the village describe terrible poverty, public d disturbance and caste violence.

Depressed and demoralized by the ruthless murder of their entire family, pressured by joblessness and hunger and envisioning a bright future for themselves Ishvar and Omprakash migrate to Bombay like Rajaram who says, "thousands and thousands are coming to the city because of bad times in their native place. I came for the same reason". (AFB171) and "the city grabs you, sinks its claws into you and refuses to let go"(AFB 172)

Ishvar and Om escape to the city and live in slum life as tailors. Here too, they face so many problems such as police cruelty, drunken fights and casual murders until they find short relief with Dina. But sterilization camp causes to collapse Omprakash's life. He is castrated by local don when they go to their village for his marriage. Beautification also causes to remove Ishvar's injured legs. Misuse of power and emergency collapse their lives. Now, Ishvar and Om return to the city once again as beggars.

The Policeman also harrase the poor and get money from them. They earn from their poverty and rootlessness.

We are waiting for the train, said Ishvar this is not that kind of station master, who was collecting his weekly tribute of maize and money. You have the best location. That's what others are willing to pay for it. All day the burning smoke blinds my eyes and throttles my lungs, said the endor. And just look at my fingers charred black. Have some pity, Sahab... How to afford fifty rupees? Police also have to be kept happy. (AFB223).

CONCLUSION:

From this way one of the strongest these deeply runs throughout the novel that is ill power of corruption. This is the great example of the misuse of power of the emergency period. This corruption is the order of mistreatment of powers such as police brutality, compulsory sterilization, the destruction of slums. On the other hand, poverty cannot be ignored throughout the novel on many ways. The main characters always employ, but still they are under the poverty line in the novel gives some insight of poverty life. Rohinton Mistry shows corrupt political scenario of India.

The Prime Minister's message is that she is your servant, and wants to help you. She wants to hear about things from your own lips. There will be a payment of five rupees for each person. Also free tea and snack.... Attention, attention! Two people from each Jhopadi must get on the bus! In five minutes-no delay. Otherwise, you will be arrested for trespassing on municipal property. (AFB256)

Rohinton Mistry highlights crucial events in the country's chronical by depicting the background of each protagonist. A Fine Balance illustrates the deeper insight of political, nativity and struggle of suffering people. It always focuses on the deep structure of the individual's existences of the human life. A Fine Balance is taken up for analyzing the human sufferings in which Rohinton Mistry ultimately gives a space of endless sufferings of the individuals.

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