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# Anand's Untouchable and Coolie: A Critical Study of Marginalised Class in Justice Humiliation Degradation.

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper intends to dive into the work of Mulk Raj Anand's work and focuses on the critical study of the novels Untouchable and Coolie.

**KEYWORDS:** Destitute, Outcastes, Humanism, Realism, Social Injustice, Untouchability, Outcast and Oppression.

## I. INTRODUCTION

A notable author of Indian-English literature, Mulk Raj Anand is responsible for the change in direction of Indian-English literature. Because Anand was the only author who wrote about the destitute and outcastes. He is a well-known novelist who was the first to debunk the stereotype associated with Indian characters. The exploiters, whether imperialists or feudalists, have been revealed with uncompromising candour, while the outcastes and poor masses of India have been detailed in detail and personally with unwavering reality and deep understanding. Anand voices his impassioned protest against the casteism-causing traditions-based Indian society. Additionally, he expresses his sympathy for the poor and oppressed masses who are the targets of imperialists, feudalists, and so-called caste-Hindus. Anand, a reformist, uses Marxism, humanism, and realism in practically all of his publications. In this stifling, harsh, and uncaring environment, his characters feel distinct and marginalized. They believe their existence has no purpose. From the moment they are born until the moment they pass away, they strive to integrate into society. They are isolated from the rest of the world and kept within the boundaries of their own marginalized environment due to this feeling of marginalization. Anand investigated their environment and way of life which is gloomy and dark, there is no chance of awakening. Anand's autobiography, academic interests, and position among contemporary Indo-Anglian novelists are all covered in this study. Additionally, it summarizes the chosen novels in light of the theme of marginality in the context of casteism and poverty. Anand's position as a novelist is addressed in his function as a social reformist. It demonstrates the social purpose with which his novels were written and his strong desire to change the caste- and poverty-ridden Indian society in which he lived. It outlines the main issues that Anand raised.

## II. CRITICAL STUDY OF NOVELS UNTOUCHABLE AND COOLIE

The current study is a modest attempt to explore and assess how Untouchable and Coolie handle the issue of exploitation. within these books. In a caste-based society, Mulk Raj Anand does his utmost to liberate the working class from injustices and inequality. He outlines the current social, political, and economic issues in India.

Mulk Raj Anand was opposed to imperialism, feudalism, and superstition. He has made a commitment to the wellbeing of the oppressed. Additionally, he maintains that everyone must have access to education and economic equality, which will free man from the shackles of oppression, poverty, violence, greed, jealousy, and narrow-mindedness. With particular reference to The Untouchable, Mulk Raj Anand's debut novel, this study examines how Anand depicts the untouchables' misery and their exploitation by caste-Hindus. The novel's main character, Bakha, who is presented as a scavenger, is insulted by high cast Hindus in the caste-based Hindu society. Anand does a fantastic job of portraying Bakha's optimism despite the insults.

The second novel Coolie by Anand is the focus of this study's analysis. In which Munoo, the main character, suffers setbacks and is subjected to abuse at the hands of the wealthy. Anand makes an effort to depict societal reality in the past, present, and future. British planters who were self-satisfied treated the poor brutally and exploited them mercilessly. The power struggle highlights the role of coercion, isolation, and discrimination in the dominated group at the bottom of the social ladder and demonstrates the forced nature of both cultural and sociopolitical adaptation. The

novel's plantation workers exhibit a rising psychological fortitude to endure in the face of exploitation. The book depicts the horrible state of societal degradation, inhumane treatment, arbitrary bureaucracy, and imperialism as well as the capitalistic scheme of appropriating wealth and the exploitation of unorganized labor that Anand depicts in this novel as constituting the politics of poverty. *Untouchable* and *Coolie*, two books by Mulk Raj Anand, are examined in the study to show how the dominant society views children's rights. The protagonist of *Untouchable* is a sweeper who, since his father Bakha always pushes him to work against the prevailing society, is denied his rights to education, sports, and amusement. He is also prohibited access to sweets and any interaction with his children. The hardship of Munoo, a fifteen-year-old child laborer, is depicted in the book *Coolie*.

Really talking, the station division referenced in the Vedas and in the Srimad Baghavad Gita was not to make breaks among different ranks yet to run society effectively and easily. Additionally, these caste divisions are not made by humans for humans. If something unnatural occurs as a result of social divisions, these should be eliminated: I say to you, religion is for men, not for men. Change your religion if you want to be successful in this world, organize, and consolidate. The religion that doesn't remember you as a person, or give you water to drink, or permit you to enter in sanctuaries isn't qualified to be known as a religion. The religion that prevents you from receiving an education and hinders your material progress is not deserving of the "appellation" religion." -Dr. Ambedkar Wikipedia, Gangu in Two Leaves and a Bud and Munoo in *Coolie*, respectively, highlight the novelist's emphasis on non-capitalist economic forces. However, non-economic forces, such as *Untouchable* feudalism, exist.

A country, a country, a public or a local area can never be prosperous where individuals treat each other based on religion, standing or ideology. where some people try to get their hands on everything, depriving the rest of the people of even the most fundamental necessities like food, shelter, water, etc. Mulkh Raj Anand wrote *Untouchable* as a result of this. One of the superb worry of the author is to feature the course of underestimated. He writes about reality, which he found and experienced in India, not imagination. He has observed India's division into two opposing forces: the caste Hindu rulers and the governed or marginalized. He wanted to write about people he had known for a long time.

If it disgraced him and the sweeper community as a whole, Bakha never wanted to clean the dirt of others. He hates not the work, but the way he is forced to do it, and Bakha could not understand how he could hate being abused and tortured even after working. All of this is brought about by his low birth weight. He is excluded from every aspect of life because he works as a sweeper. The excluded are always forced to rely on others for things like food, water, shelter, and clothing. They are unable to lead independent lives. Even if they are capable of thinking, speaking, earning, and eating as well as caste Hindus, they are always forced to eat leftovers from others. They are marginalized or excluded from the web that the caste Hindus weave in order to capture them and put their lives in danger. The novelist attacked the caste Hindus who cannot provide the outcasts with food or even a lift over pieces, despite the fact that they are dying of overeating. Outcasts are their first target because these caste Hindus begin to place blame on everything whenever they are in trouble

This study provides a literature review. The main objections against Mulk Raj Anand cover a wide range of topics. Anand is established as a humanist in the fiction of the eastern critic G.S. Balarama Gupta. The western critic F.M. Foster praises Anand and acknowledges the great range of emotions incorporated within the book in the Preface to *Untouchable*. The distorted orthodoxy of the novel is examined in the Indian context by the other Eastern critic, K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar. The critic Saros Cowasjee mentions Munoo's hardships in this context. The main issue of the book and the victim of exploitation are both noted by the Indian critic M.K. Naik. Margaret Berry, a different western critic, offers her thoughts on the novel's central consciousness. C.D. Narasimhaih, an oriental critic, offers his opinion on the method.

This study focuses on Anand's constructive strategies and his overt and covert recommendations for ending exploitation. The impoverished are made to comprehend the purpose of life through the moral and social exploitation of the underprivileged. The heroes of Anand labor, endure, and demonstrate their value. Man's sense of nothingness inspires him to look for the purpose of life. The protagonists of Anand's story arrive at some type of completion of their efforts after a protracted and tiresome search, and a glimmer of hope can be seen in them. Anand has established himself in the history of Indo-English fiction, and reading his books will always be a joyful experience.

The novel's theme is the injustice of untouchability in India, and it details the day in the life of an 18-year-old sweeper boy in the town that Anand has given the name of Bulandshahr. This book demonstrates Anand's desire for transformation and his empathy for India's underdogs. Evidently, Anand penned the book to rouse the nation's upper

castes' conscience. According to Indian critic Srinivasa Iyengar, the novel's photographic authenticity immediately persuades us despite also overwhelming us with its cumulative impact With great detail.

Compared to *Untouchable*, the novel *Coolie* is substantially lengthier and has a two-year action timeline. The main character in this story is a youngster named Munoo who goes through a number of situations, the majority of which are unpleasant and gloomy. This book introduces us to all facets of Indian society, and the overall impression is comprehensive. Through the root of the evil, which is poverty, the evil in this novel manifests itself as selfishness, greed, and cruelty. When Gangu starts working as a laborer on the tea estate, he is exploited and suffers as a result. The laborer's are exploited by their foreign employers, but there is also exploitation by a few well-placed individuals.

There are more dramatic and theatrical occurrences in this book. Two of Mulk Raj Anand's several novels—*Untouchable* and *Coolie*—have been selected for investigation in this study. The underdogs of Indian society are the main characters in these works. Mulk Raj Anand has denounced injustice and exploitation by displaying the poor and appalling physical conditions, economic exploitation, and social injustice of the underprivileged. He exhibits a firm understanding of both cast Hindus and untouchables' psyche. He has taken an objective and fair approach to the issue of exploitation.

*Untouchable* and *coolie* have been depicted by Mulk Raj Anand in socially realistic tones. These two books accurately portray Indian society in the first half of the 20th century. The hardships of characters in these two books are the main characters and document their suffering. Together, these two works have held a unique place in Indian literature. A voice is given to the plight of the mute mankind in cruel conditions by *Untouchable* and *Coolie*. The cause of the suffering is not fate, but rather fellow people and the social environment, from which the suffering can still get enormous and unwavering hope for a better quality of life. The protagonists, Bakha and Munoo, endure great pain in the films *Untouchable* and *Coolie*.

Anand is regarded as a reformer because one of his goals is to disturb his readers' complacency, startle them from their preconceived notions, and inspire them to take a novel perspective to reality. *Untouchable* is written from the perspective of a humanist progressive revolutionary who has compassion for the working class, lower classes, and social outcasts.

The curse of untouchability, exploitation, child labour, social governance, social set-up of society, customs, religion belief, prejudices, and the teme of the miserable masses are studied in a rural and urban setting where hunger and starvation are caused by the operation of natural forces, according to Anand's novels *Untouchable* and *Coolie*. Simply put, this is a reflection of society. The themes of untouchability, exploitation, poverty, starvation, and the misery of the Indian masses are covered in both of these books. The theme of suffering brought on by cruel circumstances in life has been depicted accurately, and the heroic struggle of the main character against overwhelming difficulties elevates the books to the soaring heights of an epic. The films *Coolie* and *Untouchable* are referred to as epics of social realism since they exhibit all the traits of great epics, albeit in different ways. The epic, according to the ancient Greeks, is a narrative poem with a heavenly inspiration that is larger in scope and breadth.

An epic poem may have both human and divine figures. The action in epics ought to be comprehensive and sweeping. Epic heroes are not typical people. *Coolie* and *Untouchable* have several great characteristics. social injustice on Mulk Raj Anand. From his novels, the sweeper, the peasant, the plantation worker, the city drudge, and the sepoy all come to life.

In the novel *Untouchable* and *Coolie* by Anand, an attempt has been made to take exploitation into consideration. The goal of this study is to tie all the loose ends together and determine how Anand's novels depict the struggles of the protagonist. We have seen the untouchables and coolies in the novels *Untouchable* and *Coolie*. *Untouchable* and *Coolie*'s themes of suffering and survival. *Untouchable* is arguably Anand's best-written book, and it showcases his artistic prowess to the fullest. In his subsequent novels, he has seldom ever referenced that concentration of effect. His storytelling style is nearly dramatic.

He takes on a persona and, incident by incident, develops a backstory. Gradually, the persona comes to life and starts to breathe under his skilled management. The underdogs, sweepers, coolies, unemployed coppersmiths, indebted farmers, and ordinary, poor soldiers are Anand's heroes. He portrays all of his heroes and heroines as social outcasts, outcasts, and underdogs. They offer Indo-Anglian fiction a genuine, realistic narrative.

The topic of toilet cleaning is not a very pleasant one for literature, but it is covered in the book *Untouchable*. But Anand blows the lid off of this alleged hypocrisy and social taboos in his novels.

In the book *Coolie*, Anand demonstrates to us how much he despises the class divide and how fighting the British colonial authorities in India is also a war against a certain set of class privileges. The author follows the life of a peasant boy who leaves his hillside village to work as a domestic servant before moving on to a factory in a city that, despite having factories, is still primarily a feudal city because of its squalor, extreme class divisions, and autocracy. Then he moves on to the Bombay cotton industry, and finally to the slow death of driving rickshaws up and down Simla's steep hills.

### CONCLUSION

In the novels *Untouchable* and *Coolie*, the main characters go through hardships and pains that help them come to terms with life's purpose and bring about the culmination of human existence. Their pain takes on a purpose, and they finally understand it. Readers' perceptions of poverty, social injustice, and moral dilemmas are profoundly impacted by Mulk Raj Anand's handling of these issues in his novels. Mulk Raj Anand holds a notable position with authors like R.K. Narayan, Bhabani Bhattachaiya, and Raja Rao in the Indian English literary scene as a result of the widespread appeal of his works. The fact that his novels have been translated into a number of languages is evidence of his popularity. His books do in fact offer guidelines to aspiring authors.

Anand is a social reformer and a scientific humanist, so he presents a real theme, a real issue, and a real solution in the book. He is concerned about the oppressed, therefore he brings up the problems, makes the reader feel sympathy and compassion, and then Anand offers a way to end untouchability.

Anand advocates for social change. Because of his concern for untouchables, he steers clear of any overt propaganda and makes sure that the narrative progresses as the character does.

The work serves as both an important social document and a symbolic projection of the entire narrative of human misery thanks to the author's scrupulous commitment to the facts of life and a diversity of social mores. The three episodes in which Bakha finds himself unwittingly involved are complicated conglomerates of societal realities, and they are cranked up to highlight the poignancy in the protagonist's life.

*Untouchable*, a novel by Anand, is unquestionably a superb work since it displays a merry balance between his silica preoccupations and creative talents. As a result, Anand has revealed social evil in all of its forms and evocatively depicted all facets of the human experience in his fiction. He makes it possible to put humankind in its appropriate historical context.

He has gained notoriety for his strong ties to underdogs and his ardent documentation of their problems. His novel has an intimate quality of felt life and a remarkable cogency.

Bakha and Munoo are renowned as the epic suffering protagonists of *Untouchable* and *Coolie*. Due to their social backgrounds and economic reliance, the other characters in these works have to deal with sad and dreadful circumstances. Both novels' female protagonists are incredibly pitiful to read about. The fictitious world inhabitable by a startling array of individuals in Anand's novels spans a broad spectrum of Indian social and political science.

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