

## Treatment Of Suffering Of Women In Arundhati Roy's The God Of Small Things

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Dr. Vishal Redhu\*

### Abstract

The theme of treatment of suffering of women has an important place in the contemporary literary practice. It is an important approach used to study the literature giving stress to the voice of women in the society. Today women are socially, politically, economically and legally deprived of their rights in every society. Women considered merely an entity in the male dominated society considering this idea, the present research paper tries to explore different generations of women in the novel *The God of Small Things*. Here the suffering of women is skillfully presented by Arundhati Roy. She is very much interested in the problems and sufferings of women. She shows that women are victims of exploitation, violence and exile. The protagonist of novel is a woman. She was divorced from an alcoholic husband, mother of twins, has disastrous love affair with untouchable. Due to her love affair she is thrown out of the family. In the end of the novel she was found dead alone in a room in lodge. In short, the writer shows the sufferings of Indian woman in her novel *The God of Small Things*.

Literature is an expression of the most intimate consciousness of life and society in which it grows and develops. Indian English Novelists have been showing deep concern about problems and issues of caste and gender discrimination. Arundhati Roy is also known to all not only for her new and original style, but also for her thought provoking attitude regarding the injustice against women and the social consciousness in her debut novel *The God of Small Things*. She has explored the sufferings of peripheral sections of society especially women.

The novel *The God of Small Things* directly deals with the sufferings of different generations of women in orthodox Syrian Christian family in Kerala. These women are Mammachi, who is the representative of old generation and Rahul is a daughter of Ammu and the representative

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\*Asstt. Prof., Dept. of English, Govt. College, Narnaund (Hisar)

of third generation of women in the same family. These women are forcefully placed in the society and intentionally deprived of their rights by the by the made dominated society. Family, marriage, religion and government are responsible factors for their sufferings.

Mammachi is the the significant in the novel represent old generation of women, who challenges the gender roles in her own ways. She is the mother of Ammu and Chacko. The man who is responsible for her sufferings is no other than her husband Pappachi who physically abused her, tortures her and traumatizes her. She is the victim of her husband's brutality throughout her life. She is beaten either with abress vase or an ivory handled riding crop by her husband. She had a talent of music, especially violin, that arouses jealousy in her husband's mind. When her voilin teacher praises her exceptional talent, her classes come to and end. Later her husband breaks the bow of violin one night and throws it in the river. The same jealousy is shown again when she started pickle making business. Pappachi refuses to help her because pickle making in not a suitable business for a high ranking ex-Government official. Mammachi's marraige with Pappachi is responsible for all her sufferings.

The second important woman character in this novel who faces sufferings in her life is Ammu. She faces problems and sufferings in the hands of men as well as women. She is a female protagonist born in rich family of Pappachi and Mammachi. Everybody expects her upbringing is with full of care and love, but reality is something different. She doesn't receive any love and affection from her parents. Her parents always denies her right of love and care as a daughter. She has to face a lot of sufferings and hardships, as a child her father mercilessly beat her. This inhuman action of her father is clear indication of her sufferings in family. Her broken Chacko is privileged in every strata of family life but she is treated as a burden on the family. After school education Ammu is not allowed to take further education while her brother is sent to Oxford University to take higher education. Her father's view on her education shows that she has secondary place in the family. Her father remains as a great obstacle between her freedom and her future progress. When her family shifts from Delhi to Aylmenen, Ammu's life was suffering

from boredom isolation and waiting for a marriage proposal. The house at Aylmenen is like prison for her.

At Aylmenen, Ammu was desperately in search of an opportunity. As she get an opportunity to meet her distant Aunt in Calcutta. She takes this opportunity without any doubt and marries with young Hindu. Her husband is working as an Assistant Manager at tea estate in Assam. She marries with the hope that her marriage will bring up all the love and affection which she did not get from her parents. But her sufferings continues "her husband turns out to be not just a heavy drunkard but a full blown alcoholic". In the meantime, she gives birth to twins-Estha and Rahel. When her husband's boss had an evil ye on her husband wanted to push her into his bungalow to be looked after. Marriage for Ammu is a horrible experience. Her husband is a reason for all her sufferings.

The divorce with drunkard husband leaves her no option but to return her parents with two children. A divorcee woman has no place and respect in the traditional Indian family. She receives mental torture from the ladies of her family. Forgetting all the sufferings she plans for the future of her children and their education. She becomes mother and father both for them. When she meets untouchable Valutha after many years, makes her a disastrous decision to have an affair with him. The secret love goes on for thirteen days until it is reported by Valutha's father to Mammachi. When this fatal affair is revealed Valutha is grabbed by police and killed on false case of rape. When Ammu went to police station to set the record straight against Valutha, at that time the police officer insulted her by calling her a Veshya (prostitute).

At the end of novel Ammu is exiled from home by her family members. She is separated from her children and not allowed to visit Ayemenen. Tired exhausted, sick and finally defeated, she is found dead in a room. Throughout her whole life she was severally suffered by the factors like family, marriage religion and police.

The third generation woman character in the novel is Rahel. She is less suffered character as compared her mother and grandmother. She never faces the domestic violence as Ammu and Mammachi had

She has to suffer because of being a daughter of neglected Ammu. She too experienced insult and humiliation during her childhood days. Her life totally destroyed and deserted because of tormenting memories of past.

In the end, Arundhati Roy is trying to show the miserable lives of women in orthodox Indian society. The novel truthfully explores the predicament of the many women in India who are repeatedly repressed irrespective of their caste, religion or education. Through the characters like Ammu, Mammachi and Rahel, Roy has presented sufferings, pain, physical and sexual violence of women in male dominated society. The writer severally criticized the family, Marriage, Religion and Police authority which is responsible for the sufferings of women in the novel.

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