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Cultural Clash between Agrarian Versus Civic in Kamala Markandaya's Novel: *A Handful of Rice*

*¹A Sankavi*¹Ph.D. Research Scholar, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Abstract

Kamala Markandaya talks about most subject of destitution and starvation followed by multitudinous sufferings, can lead families to awful debasement. Each person needs a small bunch of rice to overview a day-to-day existence, so in this novel *A Handful of Rice* portrays without food nobody can review in this world. The protagonist Ravi challenging to study around life since who lives in provincial culture with the goal that this novel depicts social conflict between country life address by Ravi, a poor and hungry boy and metropolitan culture through the term of Ravi, a famous crook. The novel depicts how longing for a sumptuous life compel one to follow crimes. All through this novel, creator power to convey rich experience of the west, provincial Indian structures the premise of her inventive inclination.

Keywords: Clash, Starvation, provincial culture, country life, poverty

1. Introduction

A cultural clash is a conflict that occurs when people with different cultural values interact. Cultural conflict occurs when different cultural values and beliefs clash. Kamala Markandaya was born in an upper middle class Brahmin family in 1924. Her original name was Kamala Purnaiya. She's a few novels talk the troubles of racism, conflict of national allegiances and exploitation like *Some Inner Furry*, *Possession*, *The Coffey Dams*, *The Nowhere Man* and *The Golden Honeycomb* and a few novels tries to investigate the impact of western, city ways on an agricultural country like *Nectar in a sieve*, *A Handful of Rice*, *Two virgins* and *pleasure city*.

2. Struggling

The novel *A Handful of Rice* is set city Economics. Ravi, the protagonist comes from the village and receives married with Nalini, whose father is a tailor. The culture is also not seen as valuable. Individuals' lives in metropolitan cultures are designed and determined by money. Ravi, a failure from the start, becomes a prey in the sophisticated urban life. The story reflects the struggle for existence in modern metropolitan culture. This struggle is not just a mirror of 1966 Madras; similar experiences and people like Ravi may be found in each major centre, but they go unrecognised in the hustle and bustle. By and by, he is uncovered to the harshness exploitation and insensitiveness of the town. After his father-in-law regulation's loss of life the obligation of own family falls upon him. He struggles difficult between ethical idea rooted in honesty and the ethical reality that honesty buys no

rice and will pay no bills. In this period, horrific monsoon reasons, the DMK birthday celebration came in energy with the pledge to offer rice for the negative however the expenses tough the sky. Ravi joins the mob this is attacking the rice god owns. The novel is a tragic portrayal of an impractical adolescents, Ravi. Markandaya tried to explore the mental consequences on Ravi, who turns into the victim of business changes. The novel starts off evolved and ends with Ravi's fight with starvation. The hero of *A Handful of Rice* is an item of starvation and anger, each of which makes his life an extended effort.

3. Poverty

A Handful of Rice novel appears to be a sequel to *Nectar in a Sieve*. *Nectar in a Sieve* deals with rural economics, *A Handful of Rice* offers with urban economics. However, each address poverty, starvation and exploitation in the ruthless society. Every individual of the novel fights to get a handful of rice. The novel starts and ends with the protagonist's fight with poverty and hunger. The tale actions around Ravi, who comes to the metropolis to earn. Ravi runs far from the village due to poverty. Poverty and starvation follow him like shadows. Ravi who comes with the dream of a vivid future fails to stand the realities of the urban existence. He does not get an accommodation in the city. But he involves recognize that he cannot return to the village. The village has not anything to provide to the son of a small former. "It held out earlier than them like an incandescent carrot. The hope that one day, a few days, there might be something".

4. Financial Difficulties

Kamala Markandaya was concerned about the problems of provincial Indians both before and after independence. Yearning and debasement were the most tormenting and stressful social sunglasses of malice. They were India's first-rate social issues before possibility. The central theme of *A Handful of Rice* is financial difficulties in the lives of ordinary Indian rural teenagers. Ravi, the novel's main hero, is unable to adapt to financial instability in his life and moves to the city in search of better living conditions. After meeting Damodar, he realises that trustworthiness and success cannot coexist. He tries to become wealthy through deceptive means, but he only ends up with joblessness, disappointment, and a love affair with the Madras police. He understands that money is not as important in life as intellectual peace.

5. Conflict of Hierarchy

A Handful of Rice begins with the story of a poor Ravi, a man from a small town who moves to the city in search of better opportunities. Ravi is portrayed as a defiant and strong-willed young man. He wishes for a better way of life and greater recognition as an informed youth. Mukherjee Meenakshi describes Indian social characteristics and their context as follows:

“Modern Indian is torn in a conflict between two kinds of values, supremacy of social hierarchy and emergence of the individual. Sometimes the conflict neatly resolves into two issues, duty to the family and personal fulfilment. The fulfilment of oneself, however desirable a goal according to the individualistic ideals of Western society, has always been alien to Indian tradition, especially when it is achieved at the cost of duty to the family” (Mukherjee Meenakshi, 1974:8)¹

Indian social hierarchy and individual emergence are currently in conflict, and as a result, personal fulfilment and duties towards family members of a responsible family member clash. In Indian society, the cost of duty to family sometimes takes precedence. Ravi is a prime example of this. The author depicts economic inequality in metro life, such as Chennai, in *A Handful of Rice*.

6. Conclusion

In the first scene in *A Handful of Rice*, the main character Ravishankar, who is intoxicated, threatens to break into a residence by saying the following:

“I'm hungry, I want a meal. You let me in, do you hear? I'll give you one minute.” (Markandaya Kamala, 1985:6)²

Then he smashes the rusted window bars and demands food. His violent nature is revealed here, and the author succeeds in establishing such a main character in the minds of readers. Ravi is an example of a poor fellow from India's post-independence period. Ravi's friend Convict comes from a similar cultural and financial background. Both were poor and lived in a village. Thus, the author depicts Ravi's migration and quest for a comfortable life. The sentences that follow also contribute to the story's background.

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