

PARALYSIS OF DEMOCRACY IN ARAVIND ADIGA'S THE WHITE TIGER

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“Democracy is the worst form of government except all the other forms that have been tried from time to time”.¹

Democracy is not mere a political system but a living style of people. But if the governing people are dishonest, the democracy will be the self destruction. Democracy is a much talked-about subject among our public today for whom, fortunately, the governance of the country has been by and large by democratic principles for fifty long years, that is since India discarded the colonial system and transfer of power was affected whereby a new state was born. But unfortunately there are innumerable evil forces which we call ‘corruption’ exist in countless form. In India is sixty two years old democracy. There are various drawbacks of Indian Democracy which are discussed in *The White Tiger*. The appropriate vision of human liberty is demarcated to “the inward domain of consciousness”²

The White Tiger discuss the various evils systems like election, corruption, poverty, unemployment, educational system and misuse of welfare schemes. Aravind Adiga is one of the Indian writers dare to explore the horrible reality of India, in the current years, like his contemporary Chetan Bhagat, Amita Bagchi, and Swati Kushal. *The White Tiger* set in backdrop of economic boom in India that has ushered in great chasm between the haves and have not. Novel moving around the protagonist, of the novel Balram Halwai begins his story in the form of seven letters to the premier of China, Wen JiaBao is coming to India to listen the success stories of some of the Indian entrepreneurs.

Adiga’s message isn’t subtle or novel, but Balram’s appealingly sardonic voice and acute observations of the social order are both winning and unsettling.³

All these experience explore the endemic politics to Indian society and corruption. Adiga calls them darkest area of India. Larger canvas of the novel discusses the dark picture of India. Here Adiga created India. “India of light and India of darkness”. Now a day’s both India- India of dark and India of light are access with various problems India like corruption, faulty education system, local administration elections, misuse of Government welfare schemes, Judicial system, local administration these are some faults which are discussed in the novel. Zamindari system, poor health service combinally these are issues he called dark image of India. Political system and beaureatic set up, according to the novel refer to the darkest areas of our country.⁴

One of the reasons of rising poverty of underclass people is that they never know about the various welfare schemes of government and corruptions related to development programme and electoral process. To illustrate, consider issue of Panchayat election. In most villages, the main responsibility of a Sarpanch (village head) is to oversee various development progresses, such as the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (local public works) and Indira Awas Yojana (subsidized

housing schemes). Attached to schemes which require the Sarpanch to redistribute some of the development funds various official verifying from the “Gram Sevak” (village level worker) to junior Engineer, Block development officers and other at different steps of the leader. Often the shares are specified, the Sarpanch himself or herself, tends to principle of beneficiaries. The post village can under this circumstances, highly lucrative this is the reason that large money spend over the Panchayat elections campaigns where this pattern apply local elections politics. However they are integrally linked with various development rackets, and can even generate what might we called, Competitive corruption. Instead of spending the money on the various welfare schemes they swallow all the money and move to the Swiz Bank. Consequently poverty remains as it is in this country. Politicians of our country always speak glorification about our country at once Balram says,

Some politician on the radio saying that’s why we are going to beat you: we may not have sewage, drinking water and Olympic Gold medal but we have democracy.⁵

Then Balram talks about the election in Laxmangrah. Elections are important part of democracy, candidates are selected. Due to this corruption, India is falling down. Therefore, its rural poor with 230 million people being undernourished – the highest for any country in the world. India ranks 84th in global corruption perception list among the 180 countries. Four in every 10 Indian children are malnourished, says UN report. India ranks a lowly 66 out of 88 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2008. The report says, “India has more hungry people- more than 200 million- than any other country in the world”. One third of the world’s poor lives in India, according to the latest poverty estimates from World Bank. India ranks 128 out of 177 countries in the UN’s Human Development Index. The index goes beyond GDP and calculates human development by taking into account life explanatory, literacy and standard of living.⁶

To sum-up-in the old days there were one thousand castes and destinies in India. These days, there are just two castes: Men with Big Bellies, and Men with small Bellied. And only two destinies eat or get eaten up.⁷

V.S.Naipaul *An Area of Darkness* depicted India, as a land of people with empty bellies. Later this was followed by this book *India: A Million Mutinies Now* which depicts the some kind of squalid.⁸ Mulk Raj Anand the great Indian novelist expresses his views about poverty in his novel *Coolie* Munoo central character realizes the poverty. Only two kinds of people in the world: The rich and the poor.⁹ Instead of seriousness about elections the people talk about election as Eunuchs Kamasutra. There is no specific rule for the candidate who stands in election like educational qualification, character and social image. Without all these qualification, they stand and elected in the elections. Balram speaks; Most of politicians are half baked that’s whole tragedy of these countries.

Many MLA in our country they have criminal record, yes, see, a total ninety three criminal cases for murder people, rape, grand larceny, gun, smuggling, pimming and many other such minor offences are pending against the great socialist and ministers at present movement. Not easy to get convections when the judges are judging in ‘dareness, yet three convictions have been delivered three ministers are currently in jail.¹⁰

There are so many minister and even chief minister having charge to making corruptions and for breaking the law but still they continue their posts and some of them are in jail India. Here Adiga exposes the democracy of India. In India, the voters have to vote at the age of eighteen, but voters like Balram, they never see how the process voting being conducted. There are many cities in India in which voters sell their votes either for money or a bottle of liquor.¹¹ Balram describes the elections in Laxmangrah:

I had to be eighteen. All of us in tea shop had to be eighteen legal age to vote. There was an election coming up, and the tea shop owner had already sold us. He had sold us our inky finger prints which the illiterate person makes on the ballot paper to indicate his vote.... he had got a good price for each.¹²

Balram says, I am India's most faithful Voter and I still have not seen the inside of voting booth. Adiga observes we are lagged behind China because of this "fucked up system called parliamentary Democracy" otherwise we'd just like China. Kiran Desai one of the Indian novelists also makes harsh hitting attack on the corrupt political system in India: "Not one truthful politician in the whole country. Yes our parliament is made of thieves, each one answerable to the prime minister who is the biggest thief of them all".

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