+****

**Synopsis**

**A Thematic study of *The God of Small Things* the semi-autobiographical**

**Novel: Arundhati Roy.**

**A synopsis submitted to**

**Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune**

**(Under the Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce)**

For the award of degree of

**MASTERS OF ARTS**

Submitted By

**Sofiya Khalil Shaikh**

Under the guidance of

**Mrs Smita Balasaheb Adimani**

Assistant Professor, Department of English

Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Sangli

**Department of English**

**Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune**

**June 2022**

**SYNOPSIS**

**A Thematic study of *The God of Small Things* the semi-autobiographical**

**Novel: Arundhati Roy.**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

 The God of Small Things is a family drama novel written by Indian writer Arundhati Roy. Roy's debut novel, it is a story about the childhood experiences of fraternal twins whose lives are destroyed by the "Love Laws" prevalent in 1960s Kerala, India. The novel explores how small, seemingly insignificant things shape people's behavior and their lives. The novel also explores the lingering effects of casteism in India. It won the Booker Prize in 1997.The God of Small Things was Roy's first book and only novel until the 2017 publication of The Ministry of Utmost Happiness twenty years later.

 Untouchability is one of the greatest evils of our country has been facing from the times immemorial. In the Manusmiriti, the Hindu’s law book of social code and domestic life, we see the pathetic picture of untouchable who are deprived of gaining knowledge particularly the Vedic knowledge. Untouchability is an ancient form of discrimination based up on caste which is complex and pervasive problem in India although its practice is not limited to India alone. For millennia, the practice of untouchability has marginalized, terrorized, and relegated a sector of Indian society to a life marked by violence, humiliation and indignity. The discrimination so pervasive that many Dalits come to believe that they are responsible for their own suffering and exclusion. Thus, believing it to be their faith and in turn perpetuate the practice of untouchability. Like a shameful secret a “hidden apartheid”. Untouchability remains an extremely sensitive issue in India. Its practice is never fully defined, never fully explored and, thus never fully understood.

1. **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aims and objectives of research as follows: -

* To understand the theme of Arundhati Roy’s Novel God of Small things.
* To investigate the factors behind untouchability from the novels.
* It also attempts to determine the social discrimination and casteism.
* To Analyze the theme of untouchability.
1. **HYPOTHESIS**

The Novel of *The God of Small Things* marked by touchable and untouchable to reflect theme of social discrimination, casteism and illustrate trend of transitions.

**4. Proposed Structure: Chapter Scheme:**

**Chapter 1**

**INTRODUCTION OF UNTOUCHABILITY**

 Untouchability is a direct product of the caste system. It is not merely the inability to touch a human being of a certain cast or sub cast. It is an attitude on the part of a whole group of people that relates to a deeper philological process of thought and belief, invisible to the naked eye, translated in to various physical acts and behaviors, norms and practices. Untouchability is prompted by the spirit of social aggression and the belief in the parity and pollution that characterizes Casteism. It is generally taken for granted that Dalits are considered polluted people at the lowest end of the cast order. The jobs considered polluting and impure are reserved for Dalits, and in many cases Dalits are prevented from engaging in any other works. These jobs including removing human waste, dragging away and skinning animal carcasses, tanning leather, making and fixing shoes and washing clothes.

**BACKGROUND**

The novel contains so many characters and these characters are untouchable. In this novel the author tries to give a picture of ruling untouchability in the south Indian state, Kerala. The characterization of the novel is very important one and she done it properly. The untouchability or the caste or class system is reflected in this novel and Arundhati Roy’s characters almost are untouchables, Dalits she gives a proper idea of their problems in society. They suffer a lot from the ruling members and crowns. They haven’t their own voice for their own right to do a work for them the empowers order is the final line for the Dalits. they done the work for their master but they get bruited pains for their wages.

*The God of Small Things* is a novel and it is an instruction to the higher class or ruling class for the Dalits voice. In our country all people are equal and all the people have same right to live in this country Roy wrote for the former people who lived in the past years. She says about the living and ruling in that time mostly that time is ruled by high class people and the Brahmins in that time the castes was played a vital role. So, in that time a untouchability also brought up Roy write this novel in that time and she knows the real problems in that time. Through this novel, *The God of Small Things* she conveys untouchability.

**SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION**

Social discrimination is that treating a group of people with disrespect and treating them differently from others. Untouchable is one of the major parts in social discrimination. The untouchables were not allowed to enter into the house of the upper class. They were not allowed to walk on the public road. They were not allowed to wear shirts. While the upper class is speaking, the untouchables kept their mouth closed with their hand, that’s only the polluted breath kept away from touchable. They were not allowed to use umbrella. They were not allowed inside the temple. In villages, the untouchables had a separate street and also had separate entrance

**CASTEISM**

The caste system in India is an important part of ancient Hindu tradition and dates back to 1200 BCE. The term caste was first used by Portuguese travelers who came to India in the 16th century. Caste comes from the Spanish and Portuguese word “casta” which means “race”, “breed”, or “lineage,” but many Indians use the term “jati”. There are 3,000 castes and 25,000 sub-castes in India, each related to a specific occupation. Caste not only dictates one’s occupation, but dietary habits and interaction with members of other castes as well. Members of a high caste enjoy more wealth and opportunities while members of a low caste perform menial jobs. Outside of the caste system are the untouchables. Untouchable jobs, such as toilet cleaning and garbage removal, require them to be in contact with bodily fluids. They are therefore considered polluted and not to be touched.

**Chapter 2**

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The first research related to, The God of Small Thing (1997) novel by Arundhati Roy is an interesting novel. As far as the writer concerns, the research on The God of Small Thing (1997) novel has been conducted by Nufikha Hidayah, a State University of Semarang (2006), entitled “Gender Inequalities in Male-and Female Relationships Found in Arundhati Roy’s Novel the God of Small Things”. She uses feminism approach to analyze the data. The final project is aimed at analyzing gender inequality issues existing in Roy’s novel The God of Small Things; which kinds of gender inequalities found in the novel and how gender inequalities are reflected in the novel.

The second research related to the study entitled “Untouchability and Social Exclution in Arundhati Roy’s The God of Small Thing (1997) by VeenaSukla, Rae Bareli, India. He proposes to examine the maltreatment meted but to Veluta, one of the characters in Arundhati Roy’s The God of Small Things (1997). The result is caste, whereas the caste in India is a very important part of ancient Hindu tradition. He tries to explain that there are 13 many other instances of social exclusion in The God of Small Things (1997). He gives an example unjust treatment meted out the zygotic twins. There are treated in this way because they have no father or no home. The maltreatment meted out to Ammu can also be seen as an out come of this absurd reality

Shulin Nishant “Introduction to Contemporary Indian Literature," Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur "Observing the day of small things" is a phrase that eighteenth-century friends used to describe their understanding that no behavior or deed was too small to be subject to God's guidance. This retreat will provide an environment for people to notice more fully and reflect upon the presence of God in their everyday lives. The idea basically focuses on listening to, waiting in and responding to the Living Silence. We will explore finding this rhythm of prayer in the hubbub of daily life -- synergy, harmony, love, perfection, and loss of innocence -- and where one has a potential to be the God of the Small Things around oneself -- by just following your purest feelings.

The God of Small Thing (1997) novel by Arundhati Roy is an interesting novel. As far as the writer concerns, the research on The God of Small Thing (1997) novel has been conducted by NufikhaHidayah, a State University of Semarang (2006), entitled “Gender Inequalities in Male-andFemale Relationships Found in Arundhati Roy‟s Novel the God of Small Things”. She uses feminism approach to analyze the data. The final project is aimed at analyzing gender inequality issues existing in Roy‟s novel The God of Small Things; which kinds of gender inequalities found in the novel and how gender inequalities are reflected in the novel.

Roy presents a pessimistic picture of society. With the death of Velutha, the last ray of hope disappears. He is accused of kidnapping the twins, and Estha falsely confirms it. Estha becomes a silent creature whose incomprehensible "Yes" served to prove an innocent man guilty. Roy expresses her disillusionment with the social conditions of the postcolonial world in which the untouchables of the past still face a hostile society that does not let them live as free and independent individuals. Velutha, the God of small Things, the outcast can never co-exist peaceful with the "touchable" communities for as long as the stigma of untouchability is attached to him and countless others like him. Ammu, another "untouchable" within the "touchable" cannot pursue happiness because doing so threatens the existing order, and the society takes every possible step to stop change.

"Ice-Candy-Man" and "The God of Small Things": Some Interesting Parallels. Dr. Jaya Lakshmi Rao. V., Reader in English Mrs. A.V.N. College, Visakhapatnam, India. The twirty-two chapters of Bapsi Sihwa's novel, Ice-Candy-Man (1981) sparkle with a whole world teeming with numerous details surrounding day-to-day life with all its political, social and religious import. Arundhati Roy's Booker-Prize-winning The God of Small Things (1997) packs within its 340 pages surpassing beauty and superior pain ever experienced by human beings. Both prompt intense emotional responses from their readers. Despite the gap of a decade and a half between their publication, they share several key issues.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THEME**

**Untouchability – An Overview**

 Untouchability is a cancer that has been eating our society from ancient time towards this has been handed down from generation to generation. Caste system was at first a kind of division of labor. Then it became a tool in the hands of the upper cast people to exploit and marginalize the lower castes. Millions of Indians are still untouchables in the sacred land of Gandhi, Buddha and Ambedkar. They live the parallel universe of isolation. All Indians are violating the basic rights and the human rights of other Indians.

**Chapter 3**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Types of the Study**

 In the research, the writer uses qualitative research. It is thematic research while data source is used from Arundhati Roy’s novel the God of Small Things. It purposes to analyze the novel using Untouchability perspective.

The steps to conduct this research are:

* Determining the type of the study
* Determining the object of the study
* Determining technique of data collection and
* Determining technique of data analysis.

**Chapter 4**

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

In the novel The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy is aiming to portray the differences that the Indian society casts upon its people because of being born under different circumstances; the rights you are supposed to have as a human no matter, the caste or Social class you are from, and for the sole reason of being a human.

**Chapter 5**

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

* Retheesh Tharakan, Untouchability in Arundhati Roy God of Small Things

<https://ashvamegh.net/untouchability-in-arundhati-roy-god-of-small-things/#:~:text=Velutha%2C%20the%20god%20of%20small,of%20the%20idea%20of%20God>.

* Arundhati, Roy. The God of Small Things. Penguin Books India, 2002

<https://books.google.ae/books/about/The_God_of_Small_Things.html?id=0mhCpXdzLt4C&redir_esc=y>

* Bayly, Susan. Saints, Goddesses, and Kings. Cambridge University Press, 1989.

<https://academic.oup.com/ahr/article-abstract/97/3/911/101975?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

* Singh, K.S The Schedule Castes: The People of India. National Series Volume 2 of the Anthropological Survey of India. Delhi: Oxford Up, 1993. <https://www.worldcat.org/title/scheduled-castes/oclc/30780547>
* Nishant, Shulin. "Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things." The Postcolonial Web <http://www.postcolonialweb.org/india/roy/nishant1.html>
* Rao, Jaya Lakshmi. "Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice-Candy-Man and Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things: Some Interesting Parallels." The Postcolonial Web.

<http://www.postcolonialweb.org/india/roy/alum1.html>

* Social discrimination in Arundhati Roy’s “The God of small things” K. Savithra Student of English, Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

<http://www.rjelal.com/9.2.21/135-137%20K.%20SAVITHRA.pdf>