

External social change is easier but inner change to stop certain bad traditional practices is difficult. The impact of traditional practice is more than law.

However, both the writers sincerely feel and appeal the need of eradication of untouchability from Hindu society. Both look to the problem of untouchability and miseries of untouchables from humanist point of view. Both consider that the wretched life of untouchables is caused by the unhealthy attitude to untouchables. Both the writers are not only happy in depicting the wretched life of untouchables but also they provide certain solutions on the problem.

In short, both writers champion the cause of untouchables and their miseries and openly debate the question of untouchability, so as to create proper attitude to the problem in the society by washing the linen of untouchability in public. Both the novels give the message to the readers to stop doing wrongs to untouchables and embrace them as their brother to lead happy and healthy life by ending untouchability from Indian social-scene.

To sum up, both the novels are novels with a social purpose. They suggest the ways to make untouchables happy by the eradication of untouchability from India. As such this comparative thematic study of untouchability in the selected novels will be a valuable contribution to the Indian novel on the theme of untouchability.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE ON *BAHISHKRUT*

Name of Research Student : Shri. Shivkumar Surajbhan

Title of the Research Work : *"A Comparative Study of Mulk Raj Anand's Untouchable and Arun Sadhu's Bahishkrut"*

Name of Research Guide : Dr. M. M. Kanwadkar,
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Question : 1) What made you write a novel like *Bahishkrut* on a dalit's life even after *Sinhasan's* grand success and also that of *Mumbai Dinank* ?

Ans :- *Success did not go to the head. I had seen droughts and famines. This was in or around 1974. In some villages in Maharashtra, caste hindus had in fact disallowed SC's to draw water from their well. There were deaths that was a very distressing episode which sparked this novel.*

2) What efforts in your opinion, can also be made for the eradication of Untouchability apart from writing novels and making laws?

Ans :- *Novels can only create a broad awareness about the evil of Untouchability. Things are changing. Education, awareness and economic growth can help. Laws are already in place.*

3) In cities and towns the case is different. But in villages, even today, there are separate wells for dalits. What can be the ultimate remedy over the problem?

Ans :- *Greater awakening, organized social movement and honest enforcement of laws.*

4) Are there any Ashok Ingles even today?

Ans :- *There always are.*

5) Our Ashok Ingle is an educated dalit. It seems that even educational has also not brought considerable change in the situation. What are your comments?

Ans :- *Education does change things. More educated youths, Dalits and non-Dalits should work in villages to destroy this evil.*

6) Dalits, Dalit literature, untouchables, Untouchability are found only in Hindus. Did you find the same outside the Hindu religion? If yes, pl. give examples.

Ans :- *There has been some kind of untouchability in Japan. Consult the Encyclopaedia.*

7) 'Untouchability is a blot on Hinduism' , Gandhiji said. Do you have the same impression?

Ans :- *Yes*

8) Is there any relationships between the untouchability and national progress?

Ans :- *When you keep a part of your people in darkness, you can't truly progress. But as I say, things are changing.*

9) How the Patil and Kulkarni Head master and Sukdya can be brought closer to one another?

Ans :- *Politics of election and economy is bringing them together.*

10) Do you think that your aim is fulfilled behind writing *Bahishkrut*?

Ans :- *It was only an expression, a creative articulation of disgust over the brutal caste system. Yet many people get angry. Are you angry?*
