



The depiction of rural India in the selected novels of Perumal Murugan

Vijayakumar N.C

Department of English

Sri Sri Shivalingeshwaraswamy Government First Grade College

Channagiri, Davanagere District, Karnataka

Abstract:

The villages in India are changed due to urbanization and in the name of development. Many villages are following their own cultures, customs and traditions. Each village is different from other village. Perumal Murugan tried to depict rural India in his novels.

Key words: socio-political, cultural practice, urbanization, goat

Intoduction:

Perumal Murugan's novels highlight social, political, economical and cultural asprcts of villages in South India. This paper intends to bring out these aspects. This paper deals with the depiction of rural India in the novels

1. Rising Heat
2. One Part Woman
3. The story of a goat

Findings and discussion:

Perumal Murugan was born in 1966. He is an Indian writer and scholar. He writes in Tamil. He is a great novelist, poet, short story writer. He has written 12 novels, six collections of shortstories, six anthologies of poetry and many of the non-fiction books. Many of his works have been translated into English. Murugan's many works have been shortlisted for great awards. His novel "Seasons of the Palm" was shortlisted for Kiriyaama prize in 2005. He was also a professor of Tamil at Government Arts College in Salem.

Murugan's novels deals with important themes. His novels deal mainly with the socio-political and economical status of Rural India. They deal with the themes of family, greed, corruption, childhood, autonomy, freedom, consequences of sex-selective abortions, struggle of childless couple, cultural practice in villages and so on.

Murugan has written twelve novels. His first novel is "Rising Heat". The plot of this novel revolves around the changes that occur to a family in Tamil Nadu when the state acquires their farmland to build a housing colony. The main character of the novel is Selvan. His journey from boyhood to youth traces the journey from rural to suburban small town.

Selvan and his family were living in the lush green countryside. They were happy in their family's ancestral land without any greed and such. When their farmland was acquired they moved to smaller lodges. Then we can notice Selvan's family shift in fortunes as human greed threatens their lives.

The novel "Rising Heat" also traces the climate crisis and environment crisis. The novel traces the fall of humanity in rural areas because of urbanization. The novel traces the social and economical status of the villages. It also tells that in the name of progress and development, urbanization has spoiled rural area. The novel highlights the village before urbanization and after urbanization. To conclude the novel describes village in firm clasp of urbanization.

The novel "One Part Woman" was written in 2010. Earlier it was written in Tamil "Mathorupagan". It was translated into English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan and published in 2013.

The novel is set in the Tiruchengode town in Tamil Nadu. It is Murugan's place and the main characters of this novel belong to Kongu Vellalar Gounder caste which Murugan himself belongs.

The novel tells us the complex lives of the rural people of India. This novel is about childless couple Kali and Ponna. This couple has no child even after their 12 years' marriage life. In rural Tamil society motherhood is central to the identity of woman. Such childless women are called 'barren' and inauspicious'. Even childless man is also subjected to question about his masculinity in rural India.

Then they adore Gods and take medicines to get child but no use. Their mothers decide to take Ponna to temple festival of their village where the night of sexual freedom will be provided with the young men available during the last night of the festival.

This novel vividly describes how social pressures change rural people's lives and how people respond to such pressure. And also describes social issues associated with childlessness in Tamil society. The festival gives

an opportunity to childless women engaging in sexual freedom with young men. It is justified that young men are given god like status for this one night.

The novel “The story of s goat” is a political novel which deals with the life of Poonachi, the kid goat. This novel is an allegorical representation of the life of female child growing into adulthood.

A man handover a day-old female kid goat to an old man as he is unable to look after it. It shows the poverty in rural farmers as they are ready to handover their children to those who can take care of them. Especially the parents of female children are much worried about dowries.

The old people nurture the black goat very carefully. At the time of registration of goat before the authorities become politics. How politics enters into the life of poverty-stricken families in rural areas. The novel then highlights the contradictions between state and the people.

When registering their animals at the Government office, all villagers are expected to behave towards the regime, they have to shut their mouths, they have to use their hands only to make obeisance, knees only to bend and kneel, backs only to bend and bodies only to shrink before the authorities.

Methodology:

This paper is designed to get the depiction of rural India in the novels of Tamil writer Perumal Murugan. It is a qualitative research and also library research. The data for this paper is taken by Murugan’s novels, articles, paper cuttings and his interviews.

Conclusion:

Perumal Murugan’s novels are set in rural India which deals with social, political and cultural issues in the villages of India. They try to bring out the social and cultural challenges faced by rural people.

References:

1. <https://www.crossword.in/products/rising-heat>
2. <https://boichitro.in/product-tag/perumal-murugan/>
3. <https://ijfans.org/uploads/paper/124d61b437d132ac2d4051129f2a7b3c.pdf>
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Part_Woman
5. <https://groveatlantic.com/book/the-story-of-a-goat/>