



# A CONFLICT FOR EXISTENCE AND IDENTITY FOR THE RONINTON MISTRY'S FINE BLANCE CHARACTER OMPRAKASH DARJI.

**Swati Latake.**

Research Scholar (Department of English and Languages, Sandip University, Nashik.)

Email.-swatilatke@gmail.com

**Dr. Rani Sarode.**

Associate Professor and Research Guide,(Department of English and Languages, Sandip University, Nashik.)

**ABSTRACT:** The research paper is analyzed from different perspectives of Omprakash Darji, the issue of identity and poverty crisis theory. In the novel, his journey starts from desire and the end is full of chaos. When they arrive in Mumbai, he is grumbling, but his uncle gives him hope. One day the situation will change but life plays with him. His childhood life with his father was cheerful. After the death of his father, he was made a victim of Caste system and poverty. Because of the social system, he left his traditional occupation and learned to use a sewing machine. This character explains the position of migrants who left their original roots and are searching for work in another place. The novel describes how they are surviving and what type of struggle for the house. This character shows the mirror of social evil, the aspects of exploitation, the caste system, poverty and migration. In the Indian Society Caste System there is such blight. How people exploit lower caste people socially, economically and politically.

**KEY WORDS:** Existence, Exile, Hunger, Migration, Exploitation,

**Introduction:** Fine balance describes the social, political, and economic crises in India that affected the common people. People are always affected by political, social, and economic circumstances. The political threat expresses the dreadfulness and trauma of the Indian people. They were distrustful of their rights and freedoms during a national emergency. Omprakash Darji depicts the problem of identity, which is always in crisis in Indian society. The novelist makes it quite clear that Omprakash is not the only victim of such exploitation, but also the number of ordinary people affected. He represents those for whom such exploitation and detachment of life and distress from everyday life. As a cobbler family, Omprakash faced many challenges and the result was the destruction of their desires. The discrimination in society violates humanity. In Indian society, the caste system was a hideous shadow and that divided society. It is rooted deeply in our society. A lot of ordinary people live an equally rotten and depressive life, whether in rural or urban India. The painful journey of Omprakash and his uncle Ishwar Darji is a unique aspect of the novel. These novels are effective impeachments of modern capitalistic Indian society with the dreadful harassment of the victim and impoverished. Mistry focused on society's economic hardship, illegality in society, political immorality, and the condition of Indian villages and villagers. Om desires to go back to his roots. He remembered those days of life, but his uncle always denied him. Indian villages have multifaceted faces, and the system is also complex.

**Objectives:**

1. To understand the adverse effects of social incidents in Om's life.
2. To know the behaviour of the character in crucial conditions.
3. To explain the inherent reality and conflict about existence.

**Omprakash Darji as an unblest character:** Tailors such as Omprakash 'Om' Darji belong to a small village; his family is the Chamaar caste, which comprises leather workers, tanners, and cobblers. His family tolerated inexorable animosity, harassment, rape, hunger, and murder, but in that situation, he survived with desire. But his hopes make him a street beggar. Mistry lights on suppression, which is an influence on humanism that causes caste, gender, and position of wealth at different levels. Om released himself from this unfair caste system and became a tailor in Mumbai city. The dominance of the rural system has affected the life of Omprakash. The situation for Omprakash is realistic; he is really humiliated in his Mumbai life. He does not want to stay in Mumbai. He always remembers his old life. It shows the gloomy lives of Mumbai people who lived at the poverty level. Injustice and humiliating things of the caste system in villages Ishwar and Omprakash exiled the roots and brought them to congested Mumbai for survival. In Mumbai, they started a new fight for hunger and accommodation. The true and harsh impression of society is conveyed in this novel. It deals with the lives of Omprakash and his Uncle Ishwar Darji, suffering downtrodden and agony because of the curse of untouchability, poverty, hunger, emergencies, social governance and the social setup of society, customs, religious beliefs, prejudices, and the suffering of the Indian masses by the forces of capitalism, industrialism, and colonialism. Om doesn't want to live the street beggar life in Mumbai. He is furious about this life. Om respects and is affectionate to his uncle, Ishwar. After the catastrophe of his uncle's leg, he handled his uncle. Om and his uncle are symbols of social tyranny. When his entire family burned the Thakur Dharmashi, Om, his uncle, and Ashraf Darji went to the police station to file a complaint about this incident. In the police station, no one was ready to write their FIR. The sub-inspector cross-checked with Ishaver. "What kind of rascality is this?"

Trying to fill up the F.I.R. with lies?

You filthy acchoot castes are always out to make trouble! (Page No. 148).

They want justice, but into the police station, they were treating the police station humiliatingly. Om was impatient and restless when they were going to the FIR in the police station. At that moment, he looked rebellious because he was young and not more understanding of the situation.

It draws our attention to the slum life of people who are trying to fulfil their basic daily needs. So, the increased crime and lack of health care. The demonization of village ideology in search of their self-identity. As a chammaar, he abused society as a Darji. Because of his survival, he broke the rules of society and started sewing clothes. He obscured his real traditional occupation and created a new status as a tailor by profession.

**Impact of Emergency:** Emergency orders influence the life of Om Darji and even his future. Basically, their lives immensely changed and became worse. The globalization effect goes into the lives of people in slums. They have started developing the city, but the mind set and perspective of the people have not changed. In an emergency, people lose their individuality through globalization. The plight of Om and his uncle's lives is revealed in this emergency. When the police compelled them to get into the truck due to a shortage in the account, they both said we were not beggars, but we were tailors; the police did not pay attention. They were sleeping on the road, but that is illegal. Survival is important, but what type of life do they live in? What was their desire for the future? In emergencies, Om tolerates physical and mental harassment and maltreatment. In this situation he felt that life was like a curse. It focuses on the untrue things of society and the plight of common people in an emergency. Emergency shattered the lives of people because they created destruction in the life of Om. The depiction of emergencies reveals the reality of horrific exploitation and political disturbance to common people's lives. In an emergency, it shows the powerless people who are exploited every day.

**Ruinous things in the village:** The Thakur Dhramasi burns the Om family. That situation exposes the power of politics, the cruelty against the untouchable people and the exploitation of the underclass and poor people. This cruel incident happened after independence. Though he was a

lower caste person, he went against Thakur Dharmashi, though all the people he exploited. After independence, as in the front of constitution all people are equal but like Thakur Dhramashi people not accepted this thing. Narayan wants only to vote his choice, but his voice of right was converted into brutal death. Because of his rebellious voice, he lost his life. He took revenge not only on Narayan but his whole family. Even his body showed all the villagers because nobody was going against the powerful person.

**Travelling from Desire to Darkness:** Mistry highlighted the pitiable condition of Om Darji when they migrated to Mumbai. Om understood that life is too hard in the city as compared to a small town and village. But there is no end to their agony and distress. They lived in the Mumbai slum area. The house is a shanty and life is very difficult. In that slum area, life becomes more troublesome and miserable. People included drunkards, jugglers, alcoholics and crimes. There was a lack of basic facilities like water supply and hygiene. When Om and his uncle are caught up by the police on the footpath where they are sleeping to work as construction workers as part of the Mumbai city beautification project, that is the satirical situation of society expressed in the novel. The program started a societal equality program, which failed. That is the contradictory situation in which India was going to start a beautification program, but common people have no attention. He conflicts with himself because of the unrest happening around him. Because of his survival in feudal society. When these two cobblers came to Mumbai and started to work with Dina, she could not believe them and treated them mercilessly. So Om always grumbled at Dina because of her behaviour. He thought that she had cheated them. She was the middle person between the clothes company and them. He wanted to start with his own business and wanted to take orders directly from the company. Om Darji and Maneck get closer. They have created a bond of friendship. Ironically, when the emergency launched in the country, Om's life again became awful in that situation, but Maneck connected with him in emergencies and helped him with kindness and love. Both backgrounds and lifestyles are different, but both are connected as friends. When Dina refuses to stay at home with her, he feels sad. Maneck convinced Dina to shelter them. In the beginning, she does not believe them, but later she agrees, and they both live in her house, where they share a life of desolation and dejection. All these turned distrust to trust and friendship. Their religion, cast, culture and social status are different, but they are all connected with kindness. Two villagers who are untouchable people struggle hard to raise their social status as tailors, and Uncle Ishwar wants to get married to his nephew. But the social conditions and things around them always go against them. The village where their tailors lived was ruthlessly devastated. When Om and his uncle Ishavar Darji return to the village for Om's marriage, life is always going to be against him. After the burning of his family, Om and uncle, they left their village and searched for stability in life. As a tailor and as a beggar, he searches for his identity and roots. His desires failed. In a family planning camp, Ishwar and Om are castrated by the order of Thakur Dharamsi. The effect of castration and decontaminating Ishwar. Om has never gotten married, and Ishwar has lost his legs and is now an impaired beggar. Many deaths happened because of mistakes in family planning programs. That adversity also goes to Ishwar Darji. Om's dream of making his own identity was lost because of the social, political and economic condition of his surroundings. Om comes to the city with the most ambition in his mind, but finally loses everything in their lives. There were no lights; it was only chaos in both lives. After the brutal murder of all the family members, Ishwar gives them hope in life, but fate chases them wherever they go. In Mumbai, they lived in Nawaz's house in darkness, then on a rail platform, in the street, in a beggar's camp, and for some days at Dina's house. Finally, they end up becoming street beggars.

**Conclusion:** The character explains the bitter social reality of our society. Its impact on individual and social life. He faces emergencies and forces them to spend street life as a powerless person who is not able to refuse exploitation. The character is faced with eviction, exile, and alienation. His journey had taken him into a terrifying position. The novel captures the reality of rural India and the slum area of Mumbai through Om Darji. The novel captures the reality of rural India and the slum area of Mumbai through Om Darji. Everyone has the right to live with virtue in society. But there was always discrimination and maltreatment in the name of the high caste as a superior and other inferior caste. It was unfortunate that, in India, society was divided into caste systems, so lots of people like Om and Ishwar suffered enormously. He wants relief from this irresistible condition but is continually trapped in a situation where he cannot terminate things. The surrounding situation is divided from his real identity and its roots. Mistry exposed contemporary social torture and political crisis through this character. Mistry gives a heartbreaking account of the discrimination faced by the destitute in India. It is heinous on the part of society to profess to be cultivated and civilized.

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