

Social Realities in Mari Selvaraj's *Pariyerum Perumal*, B.A.,B.L., – A Panoramic View from Readers Response Theory

Prof. ChandraChowdry, M.A., M.Phil.,

Department of English, Srinivasan College of Arts & Science, Perambalur-621 212

E-Mail : chowdrymirnu@gmail.com

Abstract

The status of discrimination in Tamilnadu, particularly on Dalit youth has gradually been increasing. We should admit that India has its prominence in higher education in Post- Independence. The question is whether education ingrained the thoughts of the students / people. The caste hindus would defy that they treat everyone equally. There was a study conducted by National Dalit Movement for Justice. The study says across India this discrimination, abuses, harassment prevails in the states like Andra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkand, Maharastra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and U.P. The intent of this paper is to expressing my panoramic view on Mari Selvaraj's *Pariyerum Perumal*, B.A.,B.L., - The protagonist of the drama *Pariyerum Perumal* (a) *Pariyan* –which means God on Horse (Kathir) has given his best as a youth Dalit who has been aimed at pursuing Law, which is the only weapon to stand against discrimination, harassment and honor killing. This paper aims to apply Readers Response Theory which focuses on the reader or audience perspective to a text or film. This article portrays variety of reactions which audience go through while watching the flick, interpreting the movie culturally, socially.

Key words: *Readers response theory, castism, Dalit Literature.*

The status of discrimination in Tamilnadu, particularly on Dalit youth has gradually been increasing. We could notice the random incidents in our day to day affairs by reading news paper, televisions and social medias. The common citizen of India reveals a shocking when the see / hear the news of communal discrimination and simply they muted themselves and pass by. Of course, we should admit that India has its prominence in higher education in Post- Independence. The question is whether education ingrained the thoughts of the students / people ? The caste hindus would defy that they treat everyone equally.

I would like to mention that Dalit youth, particularly students are being isolated by the teachers also. They face bias right from the school education to working place and often in their personal (marriage) life too. There was a study conducted by National Dalit Movement for Justice. The study says across India this discrimination, abuses, harassment prevails in the states like Andra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkand, Maharastra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and U.P.

The schools and colleges should ensure the free-learning ambiance sans bias. Therefore, the learners feels that education will help them to eradicate their ignorance.

The intent of this paper is to expressing my panoramic view on Mari Selvaraj's *Pariyerum Perumal*, B.A.,B.L., - The protagonist of the drama *Pariyerum Perumal* (a) *Pariyan* –which means God on Horse (Kathir) has given his best as a youth Dalit who has been aimed at pursuing Law, which is the only weapon to stand against discrimination, harassment and honor killing. His fellow village elderly man character nudged him to study Law, because lower caste people's final destination is to approach and appeal to courts. He also felt that only lawyer can rise the voice of the voiceless people when they are in trouble.

Here, I have applied Readers Response Theory which focuses on the reader or audience perspective to a text or film. When this theory applies, reader can actively construct his/her thoughts about the theory applied on rather than simply consuming the texts or ideas as writer / author said from their perspective. My job is here to tell the variety of reactions which I have got while watching the flick and I have tried to interpret the movie culturally, socially conditioned way of my thinking and pursuing level. Hope, this paper would bring fruitful discussion or dialogues among the common people.

Mari Selvaraj, debutant director of the flick stamped his views on Hindu Lower Caste people's sufferings and pain for getting higher education, social recognition, unfair treatment by the Caste Hindu people in Educational Institutions, discrimination in their living palce, not even allowed to have word with Caste Hindu girls academically.

In recent times, caste discrimination has become a great disease in the society. The Caste Hindu people have been dominating Lower Caste People (Dalits) They treat them like a dog. This mind set up of Caste Hindu people explicated in the movie. The director portrays the vulnerability through the character Karruppi, a beloved dog of Pariyan (Protagonist of the drama). The color of the dog is black. The society thinks black is the color of ugly and symbolical reference of Dalits but the truth is it's a color of Proletariat. The director effectively conveyed that the dog similarly resembles the character of Pariyan. The treatment given to the dog was tried to give to Pariyan also. The Caste Hindus of Indian Society and in their context, Lower Caste people are like dogs.

When he goes to the Law College, he encountered many problems. They are English Language, Non-Contact of other caste students, Fabric Identity, Place Identity (particular village denotes only Lower Caste people are dwelling over there).

Pariyan stepped in to the Law College with progressive and prospered mind. The professors are handling the classes only in English. He is hailing from rural back ground that too he is a first graduate of his family and he is unable to catch the point from the teacher. He has also requested the teachers to explain the lessons in Tamil for the better understanding of the majority of the students in the class but they refused to. Surprisingly, no students supports him, finally the teacher instructed him to learn English as quickly as possible. It shows that only students can survive if they know English otherwise they will have tough time in future. In my view, it's not true because English is a too; to learn. Whatever they learn, they should understand and study.

In his class, there are a few Caste Hindu students. They reluctant to have a word with Pariyan. Through out the movie they stand for their community, Some times they feel very bad to study along with Dalits. The fabric Identity is nothing but identifying them by their clothes. The dominant community people wear full pants through out the movie. Whereas Pariyan used different costumes like black shirt, dhoti and half trousers. In 1995, Maharashtra Government tried to introduce uniform in blue color for Dalit Students to identify them separately.

Here, the director also explained the Place Identification to know their caste. Once, Pariyan was travelling in public transportation, an old man simply raised a question about where Pariyan is hailing from. After he listed to the answer from Pariyan he is not interested to sit along with him. This old man is an absurd and strongly against the love betwixt Caste Hindu Girls and Dalits. He has also done many honor killing murders in the movie which no one noticed that he has been done it for his community reputation.

There are many codes and symbolisms used in the movie to denote the pain of the vulnerable people. They are blue color, ilayaraja painting on the wall, two-tumbler system, tonsuring the head of the higher community girl who is in love with Dalit. Pariya explored his agony, angry in the song Who am I?. The color blue painted on his face and body signifies it's a color Lower Caste People. Next is Ilayaraja's portrait also painted on the wall. Once upon a time listening to the music was a luxurious activity by the Higher Caste people but after the existence of Ilayaraja, it became common to everyone. Two-Tumbler system also still prevails in Tamilnadu. Some interior villages in Tamilnadu have been still practicing this two-tumbler system for separating and identifying two different castes. There is a girl character in the movie, who is in love with lower caste boy was forced to tonsure her head by the parents. The old man who has travelled in public transportation with Pariyan has done it for her parents and their community

which they belong to. He has been doing these kind of activities for the sake of their community deity he is doing it without any hesitation as service to their deity.

In this movie, we have a Principal character of a Law College. He played a vital role. He gave counseling to Pariyan and explains to him about the importance of Education for the Lower Caste People. Since he is also belongs to the lower community and the same kind of sufferings he had when he was studying. He guided him to focus on Education. This words of wisdom tuned him to come out from his all sort of social pressure and restrictions.

At the end of the play, Pariyan had a matured and wise conversation with his classmate's (Jyothi-Lover of Pariyan) father. The conversation explains that social structure to be changed to treat everyone equally as human being or fellowmen.

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar also had a dream and explained in his famous book titled Annihilation of Caste. He said that inter caste marriages, inter faith marriages are the ways to annihilate the caste from the society. He also said that he like the religion that teaches liberty, equality and fraternity.

Reference:

Abrams, M.H and Harpham Geoffrey Galt, A Glossary of Literary Terms, Cengage Learning, Delhi. 2013

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>

