

## Adiga's *The White Tiger*: A Reflection of India's Social Realism

Amit Kumar Chakraborty<sup>1</sup>

Prof. K. D. Sharma<sup>2</sup>

Research Scholar Department of English Singhanian University<sup>1</sup>

Prof. (English) ICDOLCC, DU, IGNOU, CCSU, KU, IPU, PTU. Sub Expert of State M.P,  
Mentor Officer of NDMC Schools, Principal/Director General<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

India is a vast and diverse nation where numerous dialects are spoken by the individuals of various castes and religions. The theme of India or the Indian identity is a well-conferred area in literature mostly in Indian Writing in English. *The White Tiger* is a pressing commentary on the socio-cultural and political India. It presents itself as an unravelling of the hidden darkness of India and as a voice of the underclass. The success of the Indian writers has been their ability to bring out the flavour of India, its regional systems, Society at large and the ways of its polity and officialdom. Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* actually paints a contemptuous and demeaning picture of Indian society. He actually through this literary work addresses the malaise of social inequality in India. He brings across the social aspirations of an ambitious but impoverished youth and his struggle to move into the upper echelons of society without scruples. The novel is essentially a social form, and it explores the conditions and circumstances of human beings of a particular class and their mental struggle and actions leading to this narrative. The present assessment of this paper appropriately incorporates the social issues inside the novel.

**Keywords:** Culture, Social Realism, insufficiency, camouflage

### Introduction

Aravind Adiga is the finest contemporary Indian makers. They required the current day challenges as against the financial, social, and social abuse, political insufficiency & the firm covering of impoverished people that is going on in India. He follows both the abused, irredeemable put spot and the really progressed metropolitan organizations down, for example, Bangalore and Delhi. The standard unessential is kept at the edge & breaking point of the power

place. Interminably lament over their dependable feast. In the current milieu, immateriality clarifies social issues, where abused individuals battle to accomplish authorization to assets and entire relationships in the public development. *The White Tiger* puts the different vulgarities frameworks like joblessness, hopelessness, pollution, political race, abuse of government assist plans and direction with organizing. The story investigates the unpleasant Indian culture reality number of years & that's really has gone within the immense opening between the rich and haves not. Published in 2008 and set in contemporary India, detailing events as can be related to the present political set-up, *The White Tiger* lays bare the socio-political world of everyday India; rather a dark side of India. Through the protagonist Balram Halwai, Adiga frames the work as a nativist narration of the nation, showcasing the socio-political world of contemporary India. With the backdrop of the two contradictory images of India - the highly sophisticated India of the rich and the vulnerable India of the poor, Adiga voices his concern over the Darwinian struggle the poor are engaged in here. The hegemonic ideologies of the rich use religious myths and traditions as the tools to condition the poor for exploitation. Halwai's rural India is a territory of darkness, a land of poverty, feudalism, fraudulence, unemployment, child labour, despair and full of misery.

## Major Thrust

Adiga's India in which *The White Tiger* is set is a land of poverty, corruption, power hierarchies and stratification. The status of democracy in the world's largest democracy is a highly questionable element in *The White Tiger*. William Ryan Brown's "*De-Democratisation and the Novels of Aravind Adiga*" analyses the de-democratic state of the country that Adiga projects. Ryan Brown finds a system of slavery existing as more predominant than democracy in Adiga's India. Brown states that the system of slavery that Balram identifies is "*the Great Indian Rooster Coop*" (Adiga 149) and, his escape from the coop is only illusionary as the democracy is itself de-democratised. Adiga's attack on the Indian politics and polity depicting it as a land of corruption and darkness was immensely critiqued both nationally and transnationally as in the case of Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire*. However, Ana Christina Mendes considers *The White Tiger* as an unravelling of the subsumed Dark India to the global literary front. She questions the premises that underpin the most vehement critiques directed at the novel; on the one hand as Adiga's work offering a creative shift from Salman Rushdie's, and on the other hand

on his characterization strategies as presenting a class reprove fashioned with an 'inauthentic' reorientalized title character. The White Tiger attracted careful studies initiating revolving discussions on realism, faithfulness, authenticity and the potential of the novel, describing the work as brutal, blunt, stark, and harrowing. Adiga's sketching of his characters too invoked serious distaste among the critics as they find the portrayals unrealistic and melodramatic. The society that Adiga represents is one that is hegemonic and ideologically conditioned; a society in which money and name become the metaphors for power. Unbalanced economic structure and the hierarchical class and caste system extant in the society reinforce subjectivity and inequality in society ensuing anomie. The societal set-up that Adiga represents, as an image of contemporary India, can be viewed as the author's voicing of his resistance to the deformed state of the Indian polity. Through the text, the writer makes an attempt to forefront the harrowing realities of the blanketed parts of rural India. Instances of socioeconomic inequality, injustices, class and caste divides and so on are seen recurring throughout the narrative making it a serious work of social criticism. The novel, The White Tiger explores the postcolonial condition of social inequality, injustice and discrimination set against a background of stark colonial slavery. It deals with the class struggle in a post globalized and modern society. It outlines the crimes committed by a village boy hungry for money and power in a capitalistic world. Darkness and Light are contrasting images used to present the irony of the poor classes' inability to voice out their protest over their discrimination. The character Balram Halwai, a taxi driver who makes his way to the upper-class through his crimes inadvertently proving that the only way to success is through dark ways of life. Ashok and Pinky Madam, and Kusum are other characters who play a pivotal role in this crime story. In the novel, through the character of Balram Halwai, the plight of the lower-class people of India and the resistance they need to register for survival has been projected. The resistance can be observed in the way he rises from the son of a rickshaw-puller and a taxi driver to the enviable position of a successful entrepreneur getting the respect he would have otherwise not received. Though he used foul means to rise, he tries to prove that only money can bring respect in today's society. The way in which the capitalized society looks down upon and ill-treats him and his family enrages him and his revengeful act brings him to plot the murder of Ashok, the employer's son.

## Conclusion

Arvind Adiga has tended to the conflict of denied class for autonomy from social obstructions obliged on prohibited category by high society. Adiga's voice unsure bits, the general populace & urges the issues related periphery's social conditions. He sufficiently sends a message that's irrelevant are at this point monitoring things for their movement & honours. If the covering & strength might concede, they can be taken go to become crooks.

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