

A Comparative Study Of Male And Female Characters In The Novels The Plot Against America And Untouchable

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Abstract

In this paper, the male & female characters in the books a Plot Against America by Philip Roth & Untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand will be compared and contrasted. It also clarifies a comparison of the characters' traits based on their caste and race. In the book, Philip Roth discussed the worry that Jews in America during World War II might be taken advantage of. In the book Untouchable, Mulk Raj Anand similarly portrayed the misery of Dalit people. These two authors spoke out against human misery and caste- and racial-based socioeconomic issues. The sociocultural analysis of American Jews and the disadvantaged Dalit Indians depicted in both works is also included in the paper. The characters' backgrounds in terms of race & caste will be contrasted. In this study article, anti-Semitism, worry over Jewish Nazi ideology, and socioeconomic issues affecting Dalits are all investigated. The study will examine the characters' societal fight for self-identity.

Keywords: American Jewish, Indian Dalit, race, caste, Anti-Semitism, Nazi ideology, untouchability

Introduction

Comparative literature was a fairly wide notion that entails the international comparison of many literary genres from throughout the globe (Barfoot and D'haen, 1998). Comparative literature examines many literary elements as well as the similarities and differences across authors. Understanding many societal, political, religious, domestic, & global facets is also helpful. The scope of comparative literature transcends national borders. Because it embraces the idea of Vishva-Sahitya (World Literature), as envisioned by Tagore, Goethe, and other notable authors, it rises beyond the distinct identities of one country literature (Tiwari, 2015). It also visualises Welt literature in order to achieve a global comprehension of world literature as a singular entity. A comparative study facilitates contact with other literatures or literary streams in order to comprehend a sociocultural, domestic, religious, as well as political aspects of various literatures. It is also useful to comprehend other organisations that promote the exchange of an ideas & information between nations (Tiwari, 2015).

A Comparative study of the social struggle of Jewish and Dalit characters in the novels *The Plot Against America* and *Untouchable* will help to understand the social, political, and domestic problems of both the countries. The writer of these two novels reflects different aspects of the society over time. In India, Dalits have experienced inhuman treatment at the hands of the higher class since a thousand years ago (Charyulu, 2019). The social structure was derived from Manu's book *Manusmriti*. This social structure made Dalits captives and instruments in the hands of an upper caste, whereas during World War II, Jews suffered at the hands of Nazi supporters due to bigotry and antisemitism. Discrimination & exclusion of certain groups based on caste and race in the social, religious, as well as political spheres are common, but the suffering of the Jews was unique to a particular time period, whereas Dalits in India have endured discrimination since the post-Vedic period (Manu, 1887).

Statement of problems and objectives

Caste and racial discrimination have been among the most significant social problems in a world. Due to this social issue, individuals confronted physical and psychological harassment. Consequently, numerous social reformers attempted to eradicate them through a variety of activities.

They proposed various solutions to a problem, but it was impossible to eliminate this social issue. The research paper examines how Mulk Raj Anand as well as Philip Roth portrayed male and female characters' social struggle in their respective novels. The characters in the novel have Indian and American social and cultural backgrounds. The social novel depicts the economic, psychological, & cultural actuality of the populace. Consequently, this social novel may investigate and analyse a perspectives of the characters' sociocultural realities. Taking into consideration the preceding discussion, this paper endeavours to achieve the following goals: The purpose of this investigation is to compare characters within a sociocultural context. It concentrates explicitly on analysing the subjugation of women in 2 distinct male-dominated societies. The purpose of this study is to cast light on the numerous social challenges encountered by both male and female protagonists by analysing the novels. Through an exhaustive examination of these issues, the research aims to provide valuable insights into the dynamics of gender roles as well as societal structures, thereby contributing to a greater comprehension of the complexities inherent in these narratives.

Brief analysis of the novels *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America*

In his novel *The Plot Against America*, Roth depicts a Jewish community as well as their anguish. It comprises of significant historical events through which the characters' sufferings are disclosed. During World War II, for instance, Jews in Europe were killed and discriminated against solely for the reason that they were Jews. During World War II, the Nazis exploited and inhumanely treated the Jews. They received the worst treatment because they were Jews during those times. In his novel *The Plot Against America*, Roth endeavours to depict these types of urgent Jewish concerns and their suffering. The novel incorporates fictitious political history based on Lindbergh's dominating the American presidential election. In the novel, a Democratic Party nominated Lindbergh for president, while other parties favoured Roosevelt. The novel also contains elements of alternative and fictitious history. In the novel, he describes World War II, reactionary activities, & the influence of Nazi adherents on various disciplines, including politics, science, religion, or society. Roth adds a variation

to the novel by imagining Charles A. Lindbergh's victory in the presidential election and his policies against Jewish society. With the assistance of male as well as female characters in the novel, he reveals the source of the anguish, torment, and anxiety of the Jews in America (K.D. Verma, 2008).

Philip Roth is renowned in Jewish American literature for his authentic depictions of characters. With the aid of his male & female characters, he skillfully reveals the social ills. Similarly, he portrays the characters' trials and tribulations in *The Plot Against America*. The majority of the protagonists in this novel are Jews, and as a Jew himself, Roth is well aware of the difficulties Jews face. He is studied Western culture, society, as well as male and female diversity. Consequently, he endeavours to imbue his novels with emblematic characters. The novel *The Plot Against America* contains not only events from the actual lives of its characters, but also images of those characters. With the aid of an description of a characters as well as their idiolect behaviour, he endeavours to illustrate the universal problems, pervasive human distress, and social crisis (Roth, 2010).

Anand depicts the exploitation and degradation of the impoverished and disadvantaged in Indian society. Bakha, his father Lakha, or his sister Sonia, a protagonist of a novels, endure inferior treatment at the hands of upper-class people. The author depicts the exploitation as well as humiliation of India's impoverished and disadvantaged. The protagonists in these novels have socially disadvantaged due to the society's caste and class system. The author emphasises social ills through the actions of male & female characters. Through his character profiles, Mulk Raj Anand exposes social stigmas such as hypocrisy, casteism, as well as antisocial elements in Indian society. He believes that a man's worth should not be determined by his origin, but by his qualities. Therefore, Anand depicts his characters in his novels with care. In the novel *Untouchable*, he reveals the diversity of characters or their mentalities. Major characteristics of his writing include a presentation of characters, techniques for presenting social reality through characters, and the use of Indian English. Taking into consideration these characteristics, he constructs dynamic characters who influence and intervene with the

lives of other characters. The novel is about an unapproachable child and his struggle against antisocial forces. The novel features a diversity of characters from various social classes. He endeavours to construct a characters from an omniscient perspective because he is not only aware of the characters but also the actuality of Indian society(Anand., 2007).

Comparative Study of characters of fathers: Lakha (Untouchable) and Herman (The Plot Against America).

Lakha is an important male figure in the novel *Untouchable*. He is not only the town's Jamadar of sweepers, but also in command of three lines, so he is proud of his occupation. Due to his advanced age, he was no longer able to work. Consequently, he delegates this responsibility to his eldest son Bakha (K.D. Verma, 2008). Roth portrays the father in *The Plot Against America* as a middle-aged man named Herman. He is the chief of the household and an insurance agent for a private firm. Herman is youthful and full of vitality, so he completes every task promptly and accurately. In addition to assisting his wife with household duties, the father figure in *Untouchable* differs from a father figure in *The Plot Against America*. Herman has a higher level of education and qualifications than Lakha. His family history is also superior to Lakha's family history(Roth, 2010).

In their respective novels, Herman and Lakha's social status is portrayed through familial ties and social viewpoints by both authors. One observes that Lakha is short-tempered as well as obnoxious by nature and constantly uses abusive language to address his family members, such as "You son of a pig" and "illegally begotten," whereas Herman is gentle and cooperative. He never employs insulting or abusive language around his family. Regarding social stature, Lakha and Herman are distinct. Lakha, who is pariah, is well cognizant of the Indian social structure, so he does not venture to challenge the established order. Even though he learns that the priest Kali Nath is sexually exploiting his daughter, he does not speak out against him due to centuries of servitude. On the other hand, he counsels his son to acknowledge a superiority of his superiors and to comply with their desires (Roth, 2010) He says:

“They are our superiors. One word of theirs is sufficient to overbalance all that we might say before the police. They are our masters. We must respect them and do as they tell us.” (U-p.71)

Anand characterises Lakha as a timid and kind-hearted senior citizen. Moreover, he endeavours to convey the traditional viewpoints of elder Dalit characters, like Lakha. When developing the character of Herman, Roth considers the nationality & social structure of American society. He attempts to foster the rebellious disposition of American Jews. Herman is the Jewish community's representative. His family suffers tremendously due to the actions of the Nazis and Lindberg. During a tour of Washington, the hotel manager mistreats him, causing his family to suffer; consequently, he endeavours to take legal action (K.D. Verma, 2008). He abuses:

“Sons of bitches!” My father said. “Fascist bastards!” (PAA-p.12)

In the novel *The Plot Against the United States*, there is a plot. Philip Roth writes about the urban lives of his characters. In his novel, he focuses on a Jewish community and their difficulties (Roth, 2010). Invulnerable Mulch Raj Anand portrays characters from underdeveloped, economically disadvantageous, as well as socially inferior sections, with a focus on the marginalised segment of Indian society. His characters originate from a variety of Indian regions, including rural, suburban, as well as urban areas. Regarding ethnicity & caste, it is determined that characters in both novels have portrayed similarly. Both authors illustrate an universal characteristics of father figures in their respective works (K.D. Verma, 2008) Lakha and Herman value their offspring immensely. Lakha does not remarry following the death of his wife because he has two sons and a daughter. Even though he appears dispassionate and unfeeling, he deeply values his family members. Anand describes a touching incident illustrating Lakha's affection. During his illness, Bakha hurries to the doctor's office and humbly requests an examination; Thus, the physician treats him poorly. His willingness to do anything for his son Bakha prevents him from ever losing his temper. Anand characterises the love and emotions of an Indian parent, specifically that of a Dalit father, as follows (Anand., 2007).

"I began to shed tears," Lakha continued and said, "Maharaj, Great one, I forgot. Your shoe on my head. I am not in my sense. Maharaj, you are my father and mother. I can't compensate for the medicines. I can only serve you. Will you come and give some medicine to my child? He is on his deathbed!" (U-p.73) (Roth, 2010).

Lakha's entreaties reveal his affection for his son Bakha. Roth also describes the typical American father's affection for and bond with his sons. At the time of his son's separation from him, Herman becomes emotional and vehemently opposes the Office of American Absorption (OAA) programme of the Kentucky farm because he is aware of Lindbergh's devious plot to separate Jewish fathers from their children, and he attempts to persuade Sandy to agree with him. He says:

"Do you understand what this program is actually trying to do?' My father asked Sandy, "Why Lindbergh wants to separate boys like you from their families and ship them out of the sticks? Do you have any idea what's behind all this?" (PAA-p.102)

Thus, Herman fails in his attempt to convince his son to alter his mind about the Office of American Absorption (OAA) programme. In their respective novels, both authors endeavour to illustrate a universal quality of the patriarch. The emotions and sentiments of a father are not affected by a child's caste, race, country, or physical characteristics. It's the same phenomenon that applies to humans everywhere in the world. These types of universal characteristics are used by authors to create the father characters in their novels. In order to examine the social awareness and attachment of a communities, both authors had narrated the perspectives of their characters, such as Herman and Lakha, from contrasting points of view. Being a Jew, Herman is a devoted member of a Jewish community. He attempts to convince the Jews to form unity as well as strong internal relations, so he becomes profoundly involved in the reformation of a Jewish people's union and organisation. He anticipates Jews to surround him. Herman tells his **wife**: (Roth, 2010)

"Our will be the house 'where the Jew live'. It'll be Elizabeth all over again." (PAA-p.10)

Herman has a deep connection to a Jewish people. Therefore, he is concerned about the fascist adherents and their devious strategy. Always berating them for their vile actions against Jews. It is abundantly apparent that Herman opposes fascists as well as their policies. They are referred to as rejects and offspring of whores because they pose a threat to Jewish society.

Additionally, he encourages his son Sandy as well as nephew Alvin to struggle against fascists. On the other hand, Anand portrays Lakha's personality as modest, timid, and traditional. He doesn't retaliate against the Hindus' traditional norms or the caste system. Both families must contend with the rebellious natures of their sons. They are occasionally mistreated by their offspring. Father is abused by Bakha:(Roth, 2010)

"The bully!" Bakha exclaimed under his breath as he listened to the last accents of his father's voice die out in a clumsy, asthmatic cough." (U-p. 06)

Similar quality of Sandy, the son of Herman is portrayed by Roth in *The Plot Against America*. Sandy rejects the advice of his father and uses the abusive words against his father. Sandy says:

"Bullshit"! (PAA-p.229)

Sandy again says:

"You're a dictator," Sandy said to him, "You're a dictator worse than Hitler. (PAA-p.229) It seems that Sandy does not share a good relationship with his father because he behaves like a dictator(Roth, 2010).

Comparative study of Sons: Bakha (Untouchable) and Sandy (The Plot Against America)

In the aforementioned novels, both authors attempt to depict the characteristics of sons in terms of their similarities and differences, as well as their individual crises. Both are eighteen years old and quite genuine in character. Despite their distinct social and familial circumstances, Bakha and Sandy share the same characteristics(Anand, 2020).

Both are kind and cooperative, and their relationships with their siblings in the family are positive. Bakha is always concerned for his younger sibling Rakha and encourages him to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Bakha always gives his younger sibling Rakha sound advice to enhance his living conditions and social standing. Likewise, Sandy's relationship with his younger sibling Philip is extremely cooperative and healthy. Both authors depict the brother's cooperative and emotional relationships. In their respective novels, the authors use the universal quality of brotherhood Principles to illustrate the relationship between family members and their close bond. Sandy works every week to earn money & stores it in the collection box so he can purchase paints and utensils for his hobby of painting. He clears snow and cleanses family automobiles to earn extra money(Roth, 2010). The following description highlights this fact:

“Sandy saved his weekly allowance of twenty-five cents and what change he earned shoveling snow and raking leaves and washing the family car.” (PAA-p.28) (Roth, 2010).

Sandy is a diligent worker who enjoys his interests. Anand also describes Bakha's diligence as well as how he works to provide for his family's and his own daily requirements. In the meantime, he exerts additional effort to satisfy his desire to buy the English attire and tobacco. Not only is he enamoured by British clothing, but he also uses it to support himself. The following description reveals this fact:

“The pay which he received there had, of course, to be given to his father, but the bakshish, which he had collected from the Tommies amounted to ten rupees, and although he couldn't buy all the things in the ragseller's shop he wished to he had been able to buy the jacket, the overcoat, the blanket he slept under....” (U-p.04)

In their respective novels, both authors employ similar character traits. Bakha and Sandy are thrifty with their finances. Anand and Roth construct the social perspective of the characters. As social critics, both authors attempt to demonstrate the repugnant nature of an characters as well as the sociocultural context of an characters in their respective novels (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Comparative study of Minor Male Characters in Untouchable and The Plot Against America.

In their novels, Anand and Roth grant secondary characters such as adolescents and adult's significant roles. The adolescent characters play minor roles in the novels, but these minor roles are crucial to the development of the novels' plots. In order to develop the action as well as plot of the novels, the authors have introduced a number of secondary characters with supporting roles. Sandy, Philip, Alvin, and Seldon are Jewish adolescents who represent the adolescent demographic. In contrast, Rakha, Ram Charan, and Chota represent the Dalit caste and adhere to the category of adolescents in the novel *Untouchable*. Philip is Sandy's sibling, and he performs a minor role in *The Plot Against America*. He always observes his brother's advice in his daily activities. At the same time, he seeks his counsel. His sibling Sandy and he discuss topics such as politics, societies, acquaintances, and drawings. He believes that his sibling understands everything and is pleased with his brother's intelligence: He says: (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

"There was nobody more truthful than my brother." (PAA-p.31)

It demonstrates Philip's intimacy and bond with his sibling Sandy. In the novel *Untouchable*, Bakha and Rakha exhibit a comparable degree of intimacy and attachment. Rakha was a minor character who is also Bakha's sibling. He is genuine and diligent, but his living standard was extremely low, so Bakha frequently instructs him to improve it. Rakha heeds his brother's counsel without inquiry (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Additionally, Ram Charan and Chota are secondary characters in the novel *Untouchable*. As intimate companions of Bakha and members of the Dalit society, they identify with the untouchables as well as share their concerns. Similarly, Roth portrays Alvin and Seldon as peripheral masculine characters in *The Plot Against America*. Alvin was not only Sandy's cousin, but also his uncle Herman's disciple. As a Jew, he feels terrible about the plight of his fellow Jews in America or around the globe. His relative and he discuss the issues of the Jews daily. Seldon's function is similarly minor to that of Chota in a novel *Untouchable*.

The novels also feature significant adult characters. In their respective works, both authors provide mature characters

with minor roles. All of the adult characters include Uncle Monty, Havildar Charat Singh, Mr. Cucuzza, Mr. Mawhinney, R. N. Bashir, Colonel Hutchinson, Pundit Kali Nath, and Iqbal Nath Sarshar (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Uncle Monty as well as Havildar Charat Singh have by nature professional. Not only do they offer sound advice to the youth, but they also help them enhance their way of living. Their roles have very minor, but they aid in plot and conflict development in the novels. Monty encourages his nephew Alvin to adopt a positive outlook on life and to work diligently, but his efforts to enhance Alvin's lifestyle are unsuccessful. In contrast, the researcher discovers a comparable function for Charan Singh in *Untouchable*. He also encourages Bakha to work diligently and give close attention to hockey contests. Charan Singh gives Bakha a new hockey stick & praises his physical strength, but Bakha disregards his advice.

Both Pundit Kali Nath as well as Rabbi Bengelsdorf are religious professionals with a calculating nature. By creating such characters, Anand as well as Roth attempt to expose the religious hypocrisies in their novels. Although Pundit Kali Nath is the temple's cleric, he uses his position to sully the social climate rather than uphold social morality. His attempt to molest Sohini is unsuccessful. Similar to Pundit Kali Nath, Roth depicts the character of a clergyman with immoral qualities in his novel *The Plot Against America*. Rabbi Bengelsdorf transmits his sermon weekly on the radio station WNJR and gives numerous lectures about Jewish ideology, but all of these efforts are in futile because he engages in anti-social activities against Jews. After analysing the characteristics of these two individuals, the researcher concludes that duplicity exists in different religions due to the egocentric nature of priestly class members (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Another striking similarity among La Guardia and R. N. Basher is observed. They oppose the primary political leaders of their respective nations. Newark's anti-Lindbergh mayor, La Guardia, attempts to present the social reality of Jews in America and around the world. Similarly, one observes the anti-Gandhi character R. N. Bashir in the novel *Untouchable*. He is extremely critical of Gandhi. In both *The Plot Against America* and *Untouchable*, secondary characters like La Guardia, R. N. Bashir, Walter Winchell,

& Iqbal Nath Sarshar play crucial roles in plot development and narrative progression. Some of these characters pertain to the political and religious spheres. Characters such as La Guardia as well as Walter Winchell are political figures in *The Plot Against America*. Roth portrays them as social workers or true American patriots. Similarly, Mulk Raj Anand portrays nationalist characters like as R.N. Bashir as well as Iqbal Nath Sarshar as patriots in *Untouchable*. Although they do not belong to the political sphere, they criticise vehemently the duplicity of the political agenda and Gandhi's speech. They believe that the stain of caste can be removed by altering the occupations of the outcasts. They believe that machines are the only means of eradicating the caste system in India (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Comparative study of Major Female Characters in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America*.

The female characters play a vital role in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America*. The research paper tries to bring out the different features through the comparative study of the female characters. Both the writers realize the value of female characters. They give important roles to women characters in their novels and try to bring them into the mainstream of society. Male and female are binary parts of the universal literature.

Mulk Raj Anand and Philip Roth depict the sacrifice of the women characters for their families, children, and husbands. The women characters in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America* are very submissive as well as hard-working in nature. Some women characters in this novel *The Plot Against America* are modest and submissive in nature. Roth neither depicts strong rebellious nor anti-husband types of wives in the novel. The character of a wife is very submissive, dutiful, and faithful to her husband and family members (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Mulk Raj Anand one of the leading writers in Indian English literature portrays the women characters realistically. In the novel *Untouchable*, Anand creates a variety of women characters and presents them in different social situations to expose the sufferings and bitter reality of women in Indian society. He depicts the male-dominated and traditional types of women characters in his novels, in the pre-independent period. Anand reveals the social

background, qualifications, disqualifications, and the contemporary social situation in his novels. The women characters in the novel *Untouchable* belong to Dalits as well as lower castes. Similarly, in *The Plot Against America*, Roth depicts the Jewish women characters and their social and individual problems in the contemporary era. This novel helps the reader to study the social problems of the Jewish women characters. Sohini and Bess are two main characters introduced by Anand and Philip in the novels *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America*. Sohini is a single female character in the family of Lakha. She takes care of everything in the house such as cooking the food, cleaning the house, washing the clothes, and fetching drinking water. She is a hard-working as well as innocent girl. She never complains about anyone in the house. During the household chores, she faces many problems like lack of fuel, water, and other necessary things in the house but she accepts it without any grumble. The following description reveals this fact: (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

“Her smoke-irritated eyes were full of water. She turned and saw her brother. Real tears began to flow down her cheeks.” (U-p.13)

One observes the low economic status as well as the poverty-stricken life of Sohini. She is illiterate and is unaware of the outside world. On account of both being an untouchable and a woman, she does not object to anyone. According to the *Manusmriti* book written by Manu women are not allowed to take education and knowledge of the world. Hence, Sohini has limitations because of the rigid caste-based social structure. On the other hand, the women in Jewish society are totally different in nature. Bess is one of the Jews in America, a well-educated, mature, and married woman having two sons. Her social, economic, and religious status is more powerful than that of Sohini. Therefore, she is not physically exploited by others in the American society. Considering the family background, social aspect, and education, both women characters are noticed to be dissimilar in nature, but one can find common traits between them. Both women characters face subordination due to the patriarchal nature of society. For instance, Herman tries to underestimate his wife: (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

“Herman,” gasped my mother, I can’t go on with this.”
(PAA-p.79)

From the above comment, one comes to know that male domination is predominant in Jewish society despite a good education and economic status. Similarly, Anand also presents the Dalit society and male domination in his novel. For instance, Sohini suffers due to the male domination situation in the family. Lakha says: (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

“I thought you were dead or something, you daughter of a pig.” (U-p.23)

From the above expression of Lakha, it becomes clear that Sohini has to undergo suffering. She receives ill treatment from her father only because of her gender. However, both women look after their family members and take care of them, prepare food for them, and do the household chores. Bess loves her sons very much and makes them feel comfortable. She offers her children food and takes care of their needs.

“Here my mother removed herself to the kitchen-purportedly to check on the dinner.” (PAA-p.125)

Being a housewife, she is perfect in her duty and prepares food for her two sons as well as her husband. The study finds similar qualities in the character of Sohini. She is also very honest in her duty and takes care of her two brothers and father as well as works hard for her family. One notices Sohini belongs to the untouchable, caste sweeper i.e. sweeper. Therefore, she faces humiliation in her daily life. She enjoys freedom neither in her house nor can go outside (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Bess has fewer social limitations than Sohini in the American society because she belongs to the Jewish race. At the same time, her relationship with her husband, two sons, and other members of the family are friendly. She is neither troubled nor abused by them like Sohini. Her family background is good. She enjoys a good status in the society as compared to Sohini. Anand attempts to depict the poverty, pitiable condition of the Dalit Society and their problems in day-to-day life because of the lower status of the untouchables in the society.

The study shed light on, how women shoulder the responsibility of household chores. This universal aspect has been used by these two writers with regard to the characterization of Bess and Sohini. Both women characters are very submissive, loyal, and faithful to their family members. They have neither rebellious thoughts nor complaints against them. After the humiliation from the followers of Lindbergh, Bess is disappointed but she is helpless and tries to control her husband. Bess says:

“My mother said,” Herman, it’s over.” (PAA-p.82)

Both characters suffer more or less because of their caste or race. Sohini is so meek that she is unable to oppose her physical exploiter strongly because of the caste and male dominance. Both the Sohini and Bess are unique women characters because both are representatives of their caste and race. Sohini suffers more than Bess due to her low caste and lack of education. At the same time, she does not get moral support except from her brother Bakha. Anand and Roth narrate the universal qualities of both the women characters in terms of their suffering. (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

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From the above expression of Lakha, it becomes clear that Sohini has to undergo suffering. She receives ill treatment from her father only because of her gender. However, both women look after their family members and take care of them, prepare food for them, and do the household chores. Bess loves her sons very much and makes them feel comfortable. She offers her children food and takes care of their needs. (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

“Here my mother removed herself to the kitchen-purportedly to check on the dinner.” (PAA-p.125)

Being a housewife, she is perfect in her duty and prepares food for her two sons as well as her husband. The study finds similar qualities in the character of Sohini. She is also very honest in her duty and takes care of her two brothers and father as well as works hard for her family. One notices Sohini belongs to the untouchable, caste sweeper i.e., sweeper. Therefore, she faces humiliation in her daily life. She enjoys freedom neither in her house nor can go outside. (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Bess has fewer social limitations than Sohini in the American society because she belongs to the Jewish race. At the same time, her relationship with her husband, two sons, and other members of the family are friendly. She is neither troubled nor abused by them like Sohini. Her family

background is good. She enjoys a good status in the society as compared to Sohini. Anand attempts to depict the poverty, pitiable condition of the Dalit Society and their problems in day-to-day life because of the lower status of the untouchables in the society. (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

The study shed light on, how women shoulder the responsibility of household chores. This universal aspect has been used by these two writers in the characterization of Bess and Sohini. Both women characters are very submissive, loyal, and faithful to their family members. They have neither rebellious thoughts nor complaints against them. After the humiliation from the followers of Lindbergh, Bess is disappointed but she is helpless and tries to control her husband. Bess says:

“My mother said,” Herman, it’s over.” (PAA-p.82)

Both characters suffer more or less because of their caste or race. Sohini is so meek that she is unable to oppose her physical exploiter strongly because of the caste and male dominance. Both the Sohini and Bess are unique women characters because both are representatives of their caste and race. Sohini suffers more than Bess due to her low caste and lack of education. At the same time, she does not get moral support except from her brother Bakha. Anand and Roth narrate the universal qualities of both the women characters in terms of their suffering (Anand., 2007; Roth, 2010).

Conclusion

The comparative study of the male and female characters in the novels *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth and *Untouchable* by Mulk Raj Anand is led towards mean findings as follows.

The male characters in the novel *The Plot Against America* are social in nature. The Hero of the novel Herman fought against followers of the Nazis. He attempted to create awareness among the Jews against Anti-Semitism. Herman’s social struggle against the anti-social elements is unique in nature. He gave inspiration to his relatives and friends to fight against Lindbergh and his policies. Whereas Bhaka is the central male character in *Untouchable* he is not like Hernan. He did not make

awareness in the society and relatives against upper caste people. He accepted lower treatment, harassment, violence, and abuse without any questions. Sometimes he tried to fight against injustice but his father did not allow him.

However, it is observed that the social unity of the Jewish people is strong as compared to the unity of the Dalits people. Interconflict and crisis among Dalit communities are more than Jewish communities. In addition, socially and economically statuses of Jews and Dalits are different from each other.

Similar qualities found in male and female characters in both the novels are suffered due to caste and race discrimination. The heroes of the novels only express anger, misery, and rebellious feelings against the existing society, but they fail to achieve success in their lives.

However, Countries and physical aspects do not make any difference in the emotions and feelings of a father. It is the same phenomenon applicable to the human beings all over the world. Father Herman and Lakha are the examples of it.

In addition, both novels contain family members, and family backgrounds including the characters of fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, and other relatives. At the same time personal crises, alienated relationships, and absurd characters are found in both the novels. Both the writers did not give scope to the love affairs of the characters and the romance of the heroes.

The female characters in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America* are very submissive as well as hard-working in nature. The male-dominated and traditional types of women characters are found in both novels. The female characters get secondary treatment in a Jewish family as well as Dalit family.

However religious hypocrisy of priest Kali Nath and Rabbi Bengelsdorf are exposed in both novels by the writers. In addition, psychological fear of suffering is found in all characters depicted by both writers.

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