

## SOCIO CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE IN THE NOVELS OF ARUN JOSHI

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**Abstract:**

The present research paper is based on the theme of socio-cultural perspective in Arun Joshi's novels. In his novels, we can observe social as well as cultural themes. There are many social problems depicted by Joshi in systematic manner. The contemporary social and cultural panorama of society is part and parcel of his novels. As we are living in the modern age we degrading our socio – cultural values through we are civilized and each and every man is thinking about money and he/she becomes money madness. So, in the novels of Arun Joshi, he depicts socio-cultural perspectives and conflict and the root.

**Keywords:**

Socio-cultural, values, conflict, root.

**Introduction:**

Indo-Anglian writers were writers who born in India and write in foreign language. So they were handicapped in foreign language. With many short-coming, slowly and steadily they learnt only through books and slowly they wrote prose, poetry and novels in the field of Indo- Anglican Literature. As K. R. Shrinivas Iyengar stated, "The forces that Co-operated towards developing English into a world language have also been responsible for the growth of Indo-Anglian literature which was a history going to nearly a hundred and fifty years. Considerable work has been produced during this period in Poetry, Fiction, Drama and Philosophical and argumentative prose. A few writers in each one of these departments of Indo-Anglian literature have attained International fame. This would not have happened but for the fact that Indo-Anglian literary tradition has had an unquestioned vitality."

Iyengar also observes, "The novels as a literary phenomenon are new to India. Epics, lyrics, dramas, short-stories and fables have their respectable ancestries, going back to several centuries, but it is only during a period of little more than a century that the novel – the long-sustained piece of prose fiction – has occurred and taken root in India"

**Arun Joshi – The Contemporary Indo-Anglian Novelists:**

Arun Joshi is one of the most significant contemporary Indo-Anglian novelists. In his novels, he present India scenario and life. He handled various themes like socio- cultural thought provoking in his novels.

**Life and career of Arjun Joshi:**

Arun Joshi was born in 1939. In his academic career he obtained an Engineering degree from the University of Kansas and has a degree in Industrial Management from M.L.T., Cambridge he also served at a mental hospital in the united states in 1957 and after that when he return in India in 1962, he worked at DCM in a managerial capacity as recruiter. He was also presided as executive Director of the Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relation and Human Resources.

Arun Joshi has great family background. His father was the vice-chancellor of Panjab University. He was influenced by Albert Camus. As an Indian writer in English, there was great influence of Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagvat Gita on him. He also believed in Hinduism.

**Themes in his novels:**

Arjun Joshi has depicted variety of themes like struggle tensions, socio-cultural conflicts in his novels. There is fathers and sons conflict in his novels. They are not satisfied with their children. In Joshi novels we can observe the clash between husband and wife. As in the Foreigner, Surrivder oberoi, the protagonist of the novels, is to be seen against the marriage, though he loves June Blith but he always detached from her and reject the proposal of marriage. In the strange case of Billy Biswas, Billy is also unsatisfied with his wife meena and he leaves his home in Delhi and lived in Maikala Hills with Bilasia who makes him happy. In the apprentice, Ratan Rathor, the Protagonist, is detached with his wife and in the Last Labyrinth Som Bhaskar is totally neutral to Meena, his wife.

Through Arun Joshi was influence by Albert Camus but his heroes have not pessimistic views in his novels but his heroes enjoy life by doing hard work. His heroes were living social life and do social services in their life. In the foreigner Sindi Oberoi, the protagonist, becomes hero for factory men like Muthu. He supports her to earn

bread and butter. Bimal Biswas in *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas* is adored by primitive's community as God and in *The Apprentice Ratan Rathor* did social; work by shining shoes of the visitors who came in temple to wipe his sins.

Arun Joshi skillfully present contemporary social system of India. There are some traits like bribery hypocrisy, lying, womanizing and exploitation of peoples by the big industrialist like Khemka and the problems of unemployment, domestic problems etc. are seen in his novels.

Joshi has depicted real life in his novels. As we can observed that in *The Foreigner Sindhi Oberoi* suffer from a deep sense of depression and frustration apart from *Sindhi Oberoi*, June, Mr. Khemka, Babu Arun Joshi has depicted crisis of modern man's life through his protagonists. They are in dual dilemma about culture and alienation from society as *Sindhi Oberoi* who is an ideal foreigner where he goes. *Sindhi Oberoi* is like Hamlet *Sindhi Oberoi* is in the delemma of "to be or not to be" *Billy Biswas* in *The Strage Case of Billy Biswas*, depart from civilized society and join primitive life and in the *Apprentice, Ratan Rathor*, the protagonist, is torn between sin and confession. As Hari Mohan Prasad describes Arun Joshi fiction as "an odyssey through the labyrinth of chaos and crisis, culture and primitivism, doubt and faith" In *The City and The River*, Som Bhaskar is modern version of the ancient characters, *Abhimanyu* in the *Mahabharat* who goes through *Chakravyuha* of science, Knowledge and wisdom. Arun Joshi's depicts man's predicament in his novels. His heroes are responsible for their action.

Arun Joshi's writing feels about Indian life. As M.Mani Meitel marks," His mastery over the treatment of Indian themes, ethos and culture is effectively correlated by his use of a sensuous and picturesque language. A typical Joshian style is really striking.

Arun Joshi's novels have multi-dimensional themes. The heroes in his novels are attached with their action and due to their action, they faced gloom and light, sorrow and happiness and test and triumph.

Arun Joshi's depicts panorama of life in his novel. As A.N. Dwivedi written, "The fictional technique of Arun Joshi is kaleidoscopic and moves forward and backward in a swift motion. That's why he does not give us so many selection or chapters in his novels. This is particularly true of novels,

where the continuity of the action is maintained throughout by keeping, above the impending, artificial barriers of unnecessary divisions in other novels, we do have chapter but they are not too many,"

As Anita Desai has created the "outsider" in her novel in the same, Arun Joshi did in his novels. G. Damoder observer, "the outsider in the world of these writers is concerned with living as it is, not as ought to be for them, life is what it is. They negotiate with life and maneuver certain cultural turns in life almost successfully in each instance. For the outsider, the fundamental condition is a deep consciousness. In his consciousness, the individualistic outsider exists. The outsider in Joshi and Desai says" I am conscious; therefore, I exist".

"Crisis of Identity" is the central themes of Arun Joshi's novels. As C.N. Shrinath explains, "In Mr. Joshi, it is one of Surrender, his hero renouncing his past, his family and the world of everyday life and fleeing from civilization into the jungle to lead the life of tribal and to create for himself an inner center of peace and sensitivity".

Finally, we can say that Arun Joshi has depicted seriousness of life in his novels instead of humor and comedy but he has occupied a distinguished place in Indo-Anglican fiction. We can observe different threads of social, historical, philosophical personal, psychological in his novels.

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