

FIGURING NATURE IN KAMALA MARKANDAYA'S NECTAR IN A SIEVE

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Abstract:

It is universally acknowledged that there is a relationship between man and nature. Man has lived and is living in the company of nature. The cycle of seasons has an effect on human life. Man has experienced the beneficial as well as the destructive aspects of nature. Nature is part of the ecological system. There is the influence of nature on literature and a relationship of people with other humans and with natural communities which bring notions of mutual respect and fairness. The living beings on the earth are dependents on their own community as well nature and living and non-living beings. In the community, they share their emotions among them about nature and its resourcefulness to them. In nature, we come across with different forms of life and economy which depend on the earth. Nature has had a great influence on creative writers from the earliest developmental stages of human beings.

Key words: Nature, ecosystem, ecology, nectar, calamities, Rukmani, etc.

Introduction:

Kamala Markandaya, the most popular Indian novelist, journalist and social worker was born into a Hindu-Brahmin family in a small town in Mysore in 1924. She is known for writing about culture clashes between Indian urban and rural societies. Her first published novel, *Nectar in a Sieve* (1954), was a bestseller and cited as an American Library Association Notable Book in 1955. In this researcher paper, the researcher tried to investigate that being the woman novelist, how Markandaya is the part of nature. She is from an Indian rural and rustic background so her novels are also set in the same background where her character grows, develops and earns life in the company of nature. The Indian writer, Rebecca Angom observes,

"Kamala Markandaya is one of the major first generation Indian women novelists writing in English. She is also one of the finest and most distinguished Indian novelists in English of the post- colonial era." ¹

Representation of Nature in *Nectar in a Sieve*:

Markandaya depicts how the peasants and villagers in rural India fall prey to the cruelty of nature. The novel shows how nature can bring destruction to the lives of peasants. The people in the village face severe loss of crops not only because of constant rain but drought. She compares nature with a wild animal for which a man works in his entire life. Actually, nature gives its aid to all humans and others. Rukmani's faith in Nature makes her hope for the time when it will be better. The novelist also states the threat of flood and the destruction of paddy crop by the rain as,

"...but Nathan and I watched with heavy hearts while the waters rose and rose and the tender green of the paddy field sank under and was lost." (p.41) ²

In title of the research paper 'figuring nature' is one of the important issues the researcher has taken for study. Keeping in mind this issue A. V. Krishna Rao and K. Madhavi Menon's view about nature is taken into consideration that compare Markandaya's novel with Thomas Hardy,

"In fact, the plot or the causality that articulates the story is provided by Nature herself. Like in a typical Hardy novel, Nature spaniels this simple family like a foe." ³