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## Reading of R. Raj Rao's *Madam, Give Me My Sex* as a trend-setting Indian Campus Novel

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**Abstract:** Campus novels that concern the teachers of Arts and Humanities are mostly written by teachers or students and are set in the campus premises. Writers of the campus novels resort to satire to crusade against the traditional and unrealistic idols set by the academicians by portraying the insider's real experiences, taking on the follies and foibles of the academic life. Campus novels make a plea for innovativeness, originality and practicality in education. Since the novels are mostly written by the academicians, it helps readers to get first-hand information about the educational setup and academic hardships in the higher educational institutions. Campus novels may depart from the routine portrayal of the academic institution as a sacrosanct place for learning and show the conflicts, corruption, injustices and illegal practices at play in the university. Major themes of the contemporary Indian English campus novels range from campus politics, friendship, education, love life, career anxiety to lust for power and authority. Stinging sharp humour, abundant use of irony and understatements, metaphorical use of language are used to give quality of freshness and entertainment to the campus novels. Some Indian campus novels portray professors with idealistic trappings who are determined to bring in academic excellence in the university. Love, career anxiety, lust for power and position also are the basic themes in the Indian campus novels. Unlike their western counterparts, Indian campus novels do not probe deep into the psyche of their characters. Unlike its western counterpart, Indian campus novel takes a safe stand on the treatment to sex due to cultural background of the country. Numbers of Indian writers in English have written campus novels so far. The campus novel titled *Madam, Give Me My Sex* (2019) written by Professor R. Raj Rao, not just contains all the characteristic features of a campus novel but has a lot more to offer than a typical Indian campus novel. The novel does not side with the faculty, students or parents but rather it assumes a wholesome perspective on all the stake holders of the academics, uncovering the deep-seated dialectic at academic, social, religious, ethnic, regional, gender, cultural, sexual, economical and national level. The element of love, in other Indian campus novels has been used for the purpose of entertainment. Rao's novel goes beyond it to deal with the homosexual love which is still regarded a forbidden taboo in India.

**Keywords:** Campus, satire, academic, University, corruption, love, caste, reservation, atrocity, court, ambition, homophobia, gender, promotion, politics.

**Article:** ‘Campus novel’ as a literary genre originated in the West in the middle of 20th century when the dust settled after most devastating World War II. Post World War period witnessed a great expansion in university education where arts and humanities were deemed to be the disciplines with employability. This attracted the young genius minds to take up the courses like Arts and literature. Practicing writers were hired to teach the courses like ‘creative Writing’ along with the conventional literature. Teachers, who were the writers to the core, could not remain quiet after noticing the irregularities, unethical and unaccountable behaviour of the fellow teachers and administrators and they held their pens on such issues. David Lodge in his article “Nabokov and the Campus Novel” (2008) attributes the word “campus” to its Latin origin which meant “field” indicating the physical space occupied by the academic institution. Campus novels are usually narrated from the viewpoint of a faculty member or the student and are concerned with the teachers of Arts and Humanities.

Major course of action in the campus novel takes place in the campus premises which may comprise classrooms, hostels, canteen, reading room, office, washrooms and so on. The closed environment of the university campus is seen to be a microcosm of a larger society outside. Stephen Connor, in this regard, opines in his book *The English Novel in History 1950-199* (1996), that “The university is a closed world, with its own norms and values, which is thick with the possibilities of intrigue”(69). University campus allows people with peculiar temperament, varied convictions and multiple approaches to fraternize amongst themselves. This intermingling of the characters from assorted regional, social and economic background is not always very peaceful and amicable. Satire lies at the heart of campus novels. David Lodge’s novels like *The British Museum Is Falling Down* (1965), *Changing Places* (1975) satirize the intellectual pretensions and human weaknesses in university set up. Even before Lodge, there were the novels like *Pnin*(1955) by Vladimir Nabokov and *Lucky Jim* (1954) by Kingsley Amis, that had the features of campus novels. However, David Lodge, who is also an acclaimed critic, considers Mary McCarthy’s *The Groves of Academy* (1952) as the first classic campus novel.

Most of the campus novels are comical and satirical in tone. Novelists resort to weapon of satire because they consciously or unconsciously crave to shatter the traditional and idealistic idols set by the academicians. The writers portray the insider’s real experiences, reflecting on the follies and foibles of the academic life. Through their satiric portrayals of the characters, the writers try to show that there is hope for positive change in the arena of education. Since campus novels are mostly written by the academicians it helps readers to get first-hand information about the educational setup and academic rigours in the higher educational institutions. Hence the reading of campus novels is delightful as well as educating. Elaine Showalter, in her book titled *Faculty Towers: The Academic Novel and Its Discontents* (2005) hints aptly at the reason why writers of campus novels tend to use satire. She says “...what appeals to me most in academic fiction is its seriousness, even sadness. Perhaps we professors turn to satire because academic life has so much pain, so many lives wasted or destroyed” (03)

Educational Institution is generally considered as a sacred one, an ideal place where students with idealistic thoughts step into the realm of knowledge with hopes, faith and ambition to achieve success in life. However, the actual functioning of the university could be much at odds with what students expect from it. Filled with mediocre, hypocritical, people the university finds it difficult to maintain its idealistic image and turns into an ordinary workplace where corruption, exploitation and manipulation run rampant. The novelist of the academic novel seem to indirectly hint at the depleting standards of the higher education, making the readers deduce that higher the degree, lower is the learning, accountability and ethics in academics.

Unlike their western counterparts, Indian campus novels do not probe deep into the psyche of their characters. Western and Indian English Campus differ from each other in terms of their discrepant treatment to the sex. Sex is not treated as a blatant topic in Indian campus novels due to cultural background of the country. Major themes of the contemporary Indian English campus novels range from campus politics, friendship, education, love life, career anxiety to lust for power and authority. Academic institutions, in campus novels, are shown to be the places for intellectual rows, where little intellectual work is done. The institutional men are portrayed as selfish, power-hungry who possess their own desires, ambitions, and selfishness and are keen on their own their own development. The flaws of such hypocritical characters are mercilessly depicted in these novels. Campus novels may depart from the routine portrayal of the academic institution as a sacrosanct place for learning and show the conflicts, corruption, injustices and illegal practices at play in the university. Some Indian campus novels portray professors with idealistic trappings who are determined to bring in academic excellence in the university. They believe that university is a place of intellectual adventure but they are disillusioned due to unintellectual practices prevalent at the campus.

“Amor vincit omnia, et nos cedamus amori” (Love conquers all things, so we too shall yield to love), like this Virgilian quote love is shown to be a dominant emotion in the campus novels. It is very natural to find at least one pair of lover in every campus novel. Career anxiety is experienced by some characters in the campus novels. The lust for power and position forms a core of the campus novels. Stinging, sharp and dry humour is employed in the Indian English campus novels to provide quality of freshness and entertainment. Indian campus novels are also characterized by the abundant use of Irony and understatements. Info dumping is another major narrative device used in campus novels where the protagonist gives out the detailed account of other characters in the novel. Through the protagonists of the campus novels, we get glimpses into other characters, though from protagonist’s personal perspective about them. Metaphorical use of language is deftly used by the campus novelists.

Campus novels in India started with R.K.Narayan’s *The Bachelor of Arts* (1937). Indian English novelists like R.K. Narayan, Prema Nanda kumar, Anuradha Marwah Roy, Anita Desai, Rita Joshi, Meena Alexander, Kaveri Bhatt, Ranga Rao, Rani Dharker, Chetan Bhagat, Amitaba Bhagchi, Srividya Natarajan have written a few campus novels. *The Long Long Days* (1960), a debut novel of P.M. Nityanandan is believed to be the first campus novel written in India. *The Farewell Party* (1971) is an autobiographical novel by M.V. Rama Sarma which vocalizes many academic and political and social issues. K.M.Trishanku’s *Onion Peel* (1973) discusses some ethical issues at academic campus. A professor, critic, journalist, and screenplay writer Saros Cowasjee’s campus novel *Goodbye to Elsa* (1974), Prema Nandakumar’s (the daughter of the renowned critic, K.R.Srinivas Iyengar ) trend-setting campus novel *Atom and the serpent: a novel of campus life in India today*(1982), Kavery Nambisan’s *The Truth (Almost) About Bharat* (1991), Makarand Paranjape’s novel *The Narrator* (1995), Rani Dharker’s campus novel *The Virgin Syndrome* (1997), Githa Hariharan’s novel, *In Times of Siege* (2003), Abhijit Bhaduri’s campus novel *Mediocre But Arrogant* (2005), Arindam Chatterjee campus novel *Above Average* (2006), Renowned critic M.K. Naik’s campus novel, *Corridors of Knowledge* (2008), Karan Bajaj’s campus novel *Keep off the Grass* (2008), Chetan Bhagat is *Five Point Someone: What not to do at IIT* (2004) and *The Two States* (2009), Sachin Garg campus novel *A Sunny Shady Life* (2009) and Manish Gupta’s debut novel, *Nine Months Ago* (2010) are a few notable examples of Indian campus novels. *Miracles Happen: a campus novel*, by Professor D.R. Sharma is a campus novel that satirizes administrative irregularities in Punjab University. Modeled on Vikram Seth’s novel *The Golden Gate*, Rita Joshi wrote the campus novel *The Awakening Novella in Rhyme* (1993) in verse to satirize the faculty and principal of a college. Ranga Rao's novel, *The Drunk Tantra*(1994) criticizes the vulnerable system of Education. Srividya Natarajan’s campus novel *No*

*Onions, Nor Garlic* (2006) has comments to make on the caste politics at one of the south Indian Universities.

Published by Bloomsbury India, *Madam, Give Me My Sex* (2019) is a campus novel written by Professor R.Raj Rao. Rao believes that satire should bring out follies of higher education. Voicing his concern for the steady decline in the standards of higher education, Rao says:

Institution of higher education is much more vulnerable dealing with women in their 20s when it comes to the aspect of the title. Higher education is in shambles and is an unfortunate thing in developing countries. It is not given the importance it deserves, but is seen as dispensable. India still has a conventional kind of education, where skill-based education is given more importance, but even if employability is an aspect, they should also look at literature and other subjects with importance for where will one generate ideas. (Bari)

Born in Bombay, Professor R.Raj Rao worked as professor in the Department of English, Savitribai Phule Pune University. Riyad Vinci Wadia's film *Bomgay* (1996) which is known to be India's first gay film was adapted from Professor Rao's poems of BOMGaY from his collection of the same title. Dr. Rao was one of the winners of the newly established Quebec-India award. His poems appeared in many reputed poetry anthologies like *The Dance of the Peacock*.

His novel *The Boyfriend* was published by Penguin India, and was translated into French and Italian. The stupendous success of his first novel was followed by his other two novels *Hostel Room 131* (2010) and *Lady Lolita's Lover* (2015). All these three novels are about homosexual love. His other works include *One Day I Locked My Flat in Soul City* (short stories), *Slide Show* (poems), *The Wisest Fool on Earth and Other Plays*, *Nissim Ezekiel: The Authorized Biography*, *Ten Indian Writers in Interview* (edited), *Image of India in the Indian Novel in English* (co-edited), *Whistling in The Dark: Twenty-One Queer Interviews* (co-edited) and collections of poetry *For Hire: New and Selected Poems* (2012), *The Canada Album* and *National Anthem and Other Poems* (2019). He has edited *Ten Indian Writers in Interview* and co-edited *Image of India in the Indian Novel in English (1960–1980)*. Prof. Rao pioneered the inception of the course queer theory/queer literature in the department of English where he taught. His Article titled "The Second Disruption: Teaching Creative Writing to M A (English) Students" published in *Journal of Literature & Aesthetics*, Vol. 4, encapsulates his theoretical perspective on creative writing. Recurrent theme of homosexuality forms a core of his imaginative writing such as fiction poetry and plays. His teaching and research interests in queer theory and queer literature are due to his being gay.

Professor Rao says that the novel is a work of imaginary literature and not an autobiography. Rao has been a professor of English for 30 years and has spent substantial amount of years in teaching at the Department of English in Savitribai Phule Pune University. His novel contains all characteristic features of the campus novel and has a lot more to offer than typical campus novels written in English so far. The novel does not commit to champion the cause of either of the faculty or the students. Rather it assumes a wholesome perspective on all the stake holders of the academics, uncovering the deep-seated dialectic at academic, social, religious, ethnic, regional, gender, cultural, sexual, economical and national level. The novel is set against the background of the university known as the Oxford of the East which is situated in Poona, the cultural capital of India. It specially focuses on the English Department of the on the Oxford of the East (OE). The department is headed by Professor Tiwari, who had "aspirations to make it the best departments in the country" (11). The dismal politics existent in the English department of the Oxford of the East becomes evident in the following lines:

The head of the department had been accused under atrocity act. A faculty member was accusing another of being gay. A female clerk thought a male contributory teacher asked her for sex. Dirty politics were known to exist in all University departments all over the country. But English department to the Oxford of the East took the cake. (223-224)

The novel is divided into 11 chapters. First chapter of the novel titled 'The Oxford of the East'. The chapter gives readers a brief glimpses into the socio-cultural, historic and geographical and educational landscape of Poona, as a cultural capital of India. The university 'The Oxford of the East' (OE) has a few affiliated colleges older than it. The OE has so dense green forest in its campus that people preferred it to the hill stations. The chapter unmistakably contains the mention of a saffron flag atop the Main Building of OE which "symbolised rightwing Hindu Ideology at its worst, which put even the Nazis to shame" (06). While commenting on the lack of washroom etiquettes in the students coming from villages to the university, the writer resorts to the scatological remarks. The coprophilic details goes, "they squatted in the toilet thinking they were fields where the excreta had to be left to be sucked into the earth...there were mounds of the smelly excrement in the toilet bowls that made even the sweepers cringe"(07). Professor A.S.Tiwari who is educated at the Banaras Hindu University, is introduced to the readers as head of the department. Dr. J.P Saxena, who is educated in America, is a reader working on the post reserved for the scheduled tribe's candidate. Mrs. Veronica D'Costa, former student of Professor Tiwari, is a lecturer in the department. There is one post vacant in the department because it is reserved for the scheduled caste and no candidate from scheduled caste could qualify to join the department on that post. "Professor Tiwari never found any reserved category candidate suitable, nor did he want them anywhere near him"(11). He openly castigates the Dr. Ambedkar's reservation policy and the Mandal Commission.

Professor Tiwari, a man of Linguistics, is politically so connected that he easily ousted his predecessor and grabbed the post of the head of the department. Professor Tiwari "had ambitions to become Vice Chancellor someday"(09). Dr. Saxena, specialized in British drama, had no political ambitions but his amorous interest was in ladies from affiliated college. Professor Tiwari and Dr. Saxena are always at loggerheads on variety of issues ranging from teachers' evaluation to committee meeting and the selection of the contributory teachers from the affiliated colleges of the OE. Professor Tiwari is attracted to Mrs. Veronica D'Costa whom he registers as a Ph.D student under his supervision. Professor Tiwari's undereducated wife, who is mistaken for his mother by most of his students visiting his home, is hardcore casteist. Professor Tiwari has lost interest in her since he find her to be "bland dal served to patients in hospitals"(10). Dr. Saxena is portrayed as a clown figure whose finger often goes to the tip of the nose and he gets up on his toes often while teaching. He always preferred answering the questions asked by female students. His mental fear that his fly is open during the class made him terribly self-conscious. Dr. Saxena who is also referred to as 'walking question paper', believes that British Drama is the most relevant subject to be taught to the post graduate students.

Mrs. Veronica D'Costa is described to have lascivious physical features and provocative dressing style. Because of her "round chubby face, large papaya-sized breasts", most male professors go weak in their knees (15). Mrs. Veronica's entry in the department as a lecturer is enabled by professor Tiwari's use of power and influence in her behalf. Authoritarianism, nepotism and favouritism prevalent in the department come to the fore during the selection process of Mrs. Veronica. Professor Tiwari invites his friend from Rajasthan University as an external member in the selection panel. The expert Professor Gupta from Rajasthan University reaches very late and the interviews had to go on till midnight. Mrs. Veronica's selection is preordained; still they stage the interview of all 99 candidates who had applied. The panel members were in a very casual in their approach during the interview as they spoke about the some

irrelevant, nonacademic topics amongst themselves. Mrs. Veronica D'Costa was the choice of Professor Tiwari and he “ as a head of the English department, had right to tell members of the selection committee who he wished to work with” (17). Since professor Gupta helped him select the lady of his choice, Professor Tiwari was ready to return his favour by appointing the lady of his choice in his department when the time comes. Professor Tiwari not only assures the selection of Mrs. Veronica but gets university teacher's quarter allotted to her by using in his rapport with the vice chancellor. The flat was allotted to her “on humanitarian grounds by the vice chancellor” by jumping the queue of the teachers waiting for the allotment of their respective flats. Vice chancellors could not be challenged because “any letter signed by the vice chancellor at the Oxford of the East was a law unto itself” (17).

Professor Tiwari who wants his department to be the best department in the country is always on prowl of the candidates who have done Ph.Ds from “Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Yale”(11). He meets Dr. Viraf Darashaw Marzban at British Council Seminar in Mumbai. On knowing that Dr. Marzban has done his D.Phil from Oxford University and is looking for a job in India, professor Tiwari immediately gives him an offer of job in OE. However, the post offered to Dr. Marzban was not permanent and was reserved for the scheduled caste. Dr. Saxena, on observing the body language of Dr. Marzban and presumably knowing it from Professor Tiwari that the latter is a gay, asks him, “You must be Dr V.D. Marzban”? Dr. Marzban, sensing the malicious prank of Dr. Saxena (V.D may stand for venereal disease), retorts him instantaneously that he is “A.I.D.S. Marzban” (19). The novel, like a typical campus novel, has a lot of funny altercations among its characters. On Dr. Marzban's nameplate painter writes as ‘Oxen’ in place of ‘Oxon’. Professor Tiwari dubs it as a matter of just one vowel in place of another. The narrator mocks that “Professor Tiwari's PhD was on vowels and consonants” (20). Since the university flat was already allotted to Mrs. Veronica, Dr. Marzban had no option but to move in with one of his students' Kamalakant in the boys' hostel.

Second chapter of the novel titled ‘The Writing on the Wall’ starts with the description of the homosexual relationship between Dr. Marzban and his student Kamalakant with whom he shares the room in students' hostel. Kamalakant reveals it to Dr. Marzban that he was a Naxalite and the police was always on lookout for him. He tells that he could get admission in English department by sobbing before Professor Tiwari. The narrator says, “Professor Tiwari gave admission to anyone who sobbed” (25). Kamalakant accompanies Dr. Marzban for buying a new mobile phone. Kamalakant plays a prank on Dr. Marzban by writing his phone number on the toilet walls and writes a word ‘Homo’ below it. The prank puts Dr. Marzban out of countenance as he starts getting calls from unknown callers inquiring about rate and his sexual preference. Professor Tiwari's habit of calling lectures or classes as ‘periods’, is made fun of. When he asks Dr. Marzban if did not have his ‘periods’, the latter replies, “Sir I am not a woman”(29). Professor Grewal, a warden of the students' hostel suspects that presence of students illegally staying in the hostel. Illegal occupants of the hostel room are called as ‘parasites’ in the OE. When Professor Grewal conducts a raid in the students' hostel, he surprisingly finds Dr. Marzban in Kamalakant's room. Professor Grewal comments that he thought that only students (parasites) stay illegally in the hostel. Dr. Marzban replies philosophically, “What are we English teachers, if not parasites...we feed on the poems, novels and the plays of others. If they didn't exist, we'd be dead”(33). The news of Dr. Marzban's stay in the students' hostel is reported to Professor Tiwari who tries to pull up Dr. Marzban but later eats humble pie and suggests him to rent a flat of his friend Mr. Chaturvedi.

Mrs. Veronica D'Costa's husband is away in Germany and she requests Professor Tiwari to accompany her in bringing her newly purchased car Alto from Mumbai to Pune since she is yet to receive her permanent license. Professor Tiwari feels flattered with the idea to be with Mrs. Veronica for this journey. Much at his dismay Mrs. Veronica informs him that she has not got any call from the showroom regarding the delivery

of the car. In the evening Professor Tiwari makes a mockery of himself as he goes to Mrs. Veronica D'Costa's flat with a bottle of beer. As he rings the bell, Mrs Veronica pretends to be not at home. However, when she opens the door after some time to check if Professor Tiwari has left, she finds him there at her door. She had to take him in and has beer with him. He also expects that Mrs. Veronica would ask him to wait for dinner but it does not happen. Professor Grewal spots Professor Tiwari coming out from Mrs Veronica's flat and engages him in conversation for the sake of doing it.

Third chapter of the novel titled 'Day-light' discusses the state government's special recruitment drive and its impact on the English department of OE. Professor Tiwari receives a letter from the Director of Higher Education, Government of Maharashtra, stating that his department has not filled the posts meant for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Professor Tiwari is insinuated to fill the said posts in 15 days. Professor Tiwari believes that he has maintained the image and reputation of the department so far by not following the state government's reservation policy. The narration goes:

The department of English in OE had never employed a reserved-category faculty member before. As a Brahmin, professor Tiwari was doubtless, prejudiced against the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. He believed that reserved-category teachers with degrees from some of India's rottenest Universities were not a patch on those from the privileged class who had means to be educated abroad.(44)

It was a conviction of Professor Tiwari that the academic credentials of the reserved-category teachers are dubious and they are incompetent to take job assignment at university departments. However letter from the Director of Higher Education had left Professor Tiwari with no choice but to recruit a person from scheduled caste on one of the posts. Hard-pressed by the state government's reservation policy, Professor Tiwari decides to err on a safer side. He recollects that there was gold-medalist student Ankit Jadhav who had also done PhD from the department under his supervision. Professor Tiwari somehow establishes a contact with Ankit Jadhav and requests him to join the department as a Reader right away. When Ankit learns that the job offered to him in Pune is a on the post reserved for scheduled caste, he is displeased. He wants to disentangle himself from the caste identity glued fixed to him. He tells Professor Tiwari, "Sir, It's unfair that I should occupy the scheduled castes post when I have suffered no discrimination whatsoever in my life. My father, as you know, was a civil servant, and I have had a privileged childhood" (46). Professor Tiwari is still firm on his belief that whatever decision he is taking, are in the best interest of the department. Ankit Jadhav is not very keen on this job offer as he was already a lecturer in Baroda and his wife also worked there. Professor Tiwari had to assure Ankit that he will help him find a job for his wife in Pune. Ankit Jadhav could not leave the present job immediately because he had given a three months' notice to the management. If he leaves the job anyways then he may have to forego three months' salary. Professor, very keen to take none but Ankit Jadhav on scheduled caste's post, agrees to pay him three months' salary.

Dr. Ankit Jadhav's interview was a mere formality since he was the only candidate to be interviewed. Still he was asked a number of questions and he answered them all. Ankit Jadhav's interaction with Dr. Marzban is not very positive since the latter presumed that he might be ousted from the department with the entry of the former. Dr. Saxena remembers all the troubles Ankit Jadhav made as a student during his lectures. Ankit Jadhav is given flat on University campus and Dr.Marzaban was again left wondering that "A gay Parsi has no motherland"(53). During his subsequent interaction with Ankit Jadhav, Dr.Marzaban says that "there should be should be quotas for gays just as there are quotas for Mahars"(57), since the history of the former's oppression is worse than that of the latter. As per the provision of the state government's special recruitment drive, those who are recruited on the posts reserved for the scheduled caste, have to organize a seminar on Dalit Literature. Professor Tiwari gets a call regarding this from Directorate of Higher

Education. He assigns the task to Ankit Jadhav. However the idea does not go down well with Ankit Jadhav since he thinks that such theme of the seminar amounts to his stereotyping. Dalit Literature was not an area of Ankit Jadhav's interest. Hence the speakers whom he invited for the seminar are mostly high-caste professors from top-notch universities in India. The professors were ready to come for the conference "because they were being paid the airfare" (60). With the successful completion of the conference Ankit Jadhav heaves the sigh of relief. However Ankit Jadhav's trouble does not end here. ST & SC students' Union of the university finds fault with the organization of conference and demonstrates against the choice of the speakers invited for the conference. The union contended that the speakers were high caste persons; hence it did not serve the purpose of the conference. The agitation of ST & SC students' Union assumes the acute dimension and media also takes a serious note of it. Professor Tiwari had to yield to the pressure of the Union and media and he had to organize the same conference again but with the speaker suggested by the union this time.

Fourth chapter of the novel titled 'Gurus and their Shishyas' begins with Professor Tiwari's whimsical idea of naming English department of the OE as 'gurukul', modeled on the gurukuls of ancient times. Colleges from his department find Professor Tiwari's comparison of English department with gurukul preposterous. When Professor Tiwari puts this issue to vote among his colleagues, he got only his vote in the favour of the idea. In Gurukuls of the yore, students used to stay in the modest abodes of their teachers and teachers then charged no fees to the students. On the contrary in the department of English, it is the teachers like Dr. Marzban who had to stay with a student in his hostel. Teachers were paid enormous salary by the government. Teachers also accepted the certain gifts from students. "They also accepted their fees in kind, in form of all the almonds and pistachios and even whisky bottles that their students, especially those from Iran, Iraq and other foreign countries ...brought for them"(70).

Dr. Marzban and Dr. Saxena toy with the idea of ordering for the T-shirts and sweat shirts with the quotes from the novels and poems written on it. Students list out a number of quotes to be printed on the T-shirts and sweat shirts. A few days later Professor Tiwari gets a call from a reporter of Marathi Newspaper to inform him that there are instances of the question paper leaking at his department. He also informed that the head clerk Mr. Bhave is rumoured to have involved in this practice. Dr. Saxena feels inwardly happy assuming that the malpractice of this sort, especially when media has got wind of it, will cost Professor Tiwari the post of Head and the position will fall on his platter because he is second in command. Ankit Jadhav suggests that they will type and give the printed copies of the question paper to the students. Thus, the possibility of question papers falling into the hands of unreliable persons like Mr. Bhave can be ruled out. Ankit Jadhav suggests that they can get Mr. Bhave transferred. Mrs Veronica D'Costa who had hosts of complainants against Mr. Bhave, suggests that they replace Mr. Bhave with a female head clerk because, "women are much less prone to corruption than men" (80). Professor is not convinced with the gender diatribe of Mrs. Veronica D'Costa and his caste bias again comes to the fore. He says, "if we transfer him, we will be saddled with the head clerk from SC or ST category"(80).

One Iranian student Mr. Behzad invites Dr. Saxena for his PhD viva in Macaulay Hall. The invitation itself is quite attractive. He says, "after the viva, please join us for lunch at the Blue Diamond Hotel" (83). Dr. Saxena never attends the viva of the students of Professor Tiwari but he makes an exception in this case. However, during the viva he drowns. Despite the warning written outside the Macaulay Hall that eating and drinking inside the Macaulay Hall is prohibited, number of dry fruits, eatables and a cake are brought and served inside. The viva turns into just a formality and farce and it ends with a sudden fanfare congratulating Mr. Behzad for the award of his PhD. The vivas in the novel, especially of foreign students, are shown to be more lavishness, flamboyance and pomp and less of academic and intellectual deliberation.



Fifth chapter of the novel titled 'Mock Girlfriend' deals with Dr. Marzban's survival in the department by making a mock girlfriend as an attempt to show him as straight. Dr. Marzban, after moving in to Mr. Chaturvedi's flat, starts enjoying a paid sex with a male rickshaw driver Altaf. A few days later, Dr. Marzban gets a phone call from the nameless caller who introduces himself as his well-wisher. He also suggests that Dr. Marzban should find a dummy girlfriend for himself at the earliest to save his job. The caller also informs Dr. Marzban that Professor Tiwari is homophobic and is bent on getting rid of him. Under this circumstance, if Dr. Marzban gives an impression to be straight by being found in the company of women, he may be able to retain his job. The caller turns out to be Professor Tiwari's son who meets Dr. Marzban on his request and elaborates him on this topic. Kamalakant gets swung in action to find a mock girlfriend for Dr. Marzban and his search ends with a Sindhi student Miss Mala Sadarangani, who already had a crush on Dr. Marzban. Dr. Marzban proposes her on Valentine's day. Mala accepts his proposal and Dr. Marzban starts dating her. They plan a pleasure trip to Taj Mahal in Agra. However, their stay in the hotel suite turns spoilsport of the trip. Mala was unaware of Dr. Marzban's being homosexual. Despite of Mala's meticulous efforts she fails to sexually arouse Dr. Marzban. They head back to Pune after this pathetic honeymoon. On the way, Dr. Marzban comes clean on his fake relationship with Mala Sadarangani. On knowing the truth, Mala Sadarangani puts Dr. Marzban in dock and starts blackmailing him. Dr. Marzban foregoes substantial part of his salary to appease her. A few days later, Mala Sadarangani decides to move on as her parents fix up her marriage with a rich Sindhi businessman. However, her marriage turns unhappy and she chooses to come back to OE as a student of Women's Studies Centre.

Ankit Jadhav believes that Indians should never write poetry in English as it is not their mother tongue. However, Dr. Marzban champions the cause of Indians writing in English. He, as a Parsi, believes that, "A Parsi has no mother tongue other than English. Ask Rohinton Mistry" (119). Dr. Marzban embarks on teaching a paper 'Indian Writing in English' as an in-house Indian English poet and because no other teacher in the department was interested in doing that. Arun Kolatkar's Poetry *Jejury* was a part of the paper. Dr. Marzban plans a study tour to Jejury with his students to physically explore the details of Jejury described in Kolatkar's poetry.

Sixth chapter of the novel titled 'Madam Give Me My Sex' which is also a title of the novel recounts the hilarious episode that took place in the English department of OE. Priyanka, a new clerk, joins the office of English department as Mr. Bhave goes on leave. Priyanka starts calling Vilas, the alcoholic peon in the office; mama and then everyone in the office follows the suit. Vilas comes drunk almost every day to office. Debashish Goswami, a student from Guwahati, has qualified the teacher's eligibility test in English and is in search of a job as a lecturer in OE. Professor Tiwari hires him as a contributory teacher for the optional subject Caribbean Literature. Debashish Goswami's strong mother tongue interference in his speech made him unintelligible to the students. After having worked for three months in the department, Debashish Goswami goes to the office and asks the female clerk Priyanka for the cheques of his salary. Professor Tiwari was away for a seminar then and Dr. Saxena was made in charge of the department. Priyanka was alone in the office, since Mr. Bhave and Vilas were not in office. Mr. Debashish wants to ask for his cheques but ends up saying, "Madam, give me my sex" (136). Priyanka gets up and gives him a tight slap. Debashish, perplexed with her violent reaction and sensing the imminent danger, runs out of the office. Feeling humiliated, he goes to Nashik and spends time in Kumbh Mela observing Naga Sadhus.

As soon as Professor Tiwari returns from seminar, Priyanka and Mr. Bhave complain about the incident to him. Urmila Rele, the director of Women's Studies Centre, also joins the fray. She asks Professor Tiwari to take severe action against Debashish Goswami for his misconduct. The news reaches the newspaper reporters too and they sought an audience with Professor Tiwari. The reporters also insist on the severest

punishment to be imposed on the offender. On his return from Nashik, Debashish Goswami goes to meet Professor Tiwari who blasts him. Debashish Goswami meekly explains his side of the story by stating that he just asked for the three months' salary. Professor Tiwari, a professor of linguistics, noticed that Debashish pronounced the word 'cheques' as 'seks'. He takes the task head on to clear the comedy of manners occurred sheer due to phonological discrepancy. Professor Tiwari demonstrated it before Urmila Rele and the newspaper reporters that in Assamese language there is no sound 'cha', hence the Assamese speaker substitute with the sound 'sa'. Hence 'chain' becomes 'sain', 'cheese' becomes 'seas', 'latch' becomes 'lass' and 'cheques' becomes 'sex' (144). Professor Tiwari's demonstration partially brings down a curtain on the episode.

On his meeting with Dr. Marzban, Debashish Goswami confesses that he too was a gay but was not out of the closet yet. Debashish confides in him to say that, "Priyanka's allegation had sickened him". When Dr. Marzban tries to make sexual advances at him, Debashish Goswami says that he was more attracted towards Ankit Jadhav, though he respects Dr. Marzban. Professor Tiwari is invited by University Grants Commission to be a part of NAAC Team. He authorizes Ankit Jadhav as in charge of the department, to the dismay of Dr. Saxena. Ankit Jadhav, during his stint as in charge, turns out to be a strict disciplinarian. He, even, stops the drunken stupor of Vilas during the office hours.

Seventh chapter of the novel titled 'I'm a Self-Made Man', deals with the new entrant Baban Borde in the department of English of OE on the post reserved for Scheduled Tribe under the special recruitment drive of the directorate of the higher education. Vice chancellor of the OE marks the letter he received from the director of Higher Education to Professor regarding the recruitment of the ST category teacher in the English department. Unlike the previous special recruitment drive for scheduled caste in which Ankit Jadhav had entered the department, the letter from director of Higher Education had come with readymade application and curriculum vitae of the candidate Baban Borde. Baban Borde belonged to very underprivileged section of the society. He rose from the ranks by completing his higher education and braggingly titles himself as a 'Self-Made Man'. Baban Borde has been caricatured in the novel. His appearance contained, "Old fashioned safari suit, his over oiled hair, and his worn out slippers badly in the need of mending" (163). Students had nicknamed him as 'Mr Bed & Breakfast'. In his previous college where he was given an additional charge of the hostel warden, he was beaten up by the spoiled rich students for chiding them on possessing condoms in the hostel rooms. At the age of twenty five, he got married to an illiterate woman and begot five daughters. He, later, turns wife beater and alcoholic. His wife leaves him and seeks refuge at her mother's home. After his wife leaves, Baban Borde hires a widow from his village to cook and maintain his house. He starts physical relationship with this widow and again begets two more kids. He quickly gets fed up with the widow as she is older than him in years and ask her accept the money and leave him. However the lady drags him to village panchayat and forces him to marry her.

The narrator uses understatement to describe the ambit of Baban Borde's reading and research. He says:

In spite of the chaos that characterized his domestic life, Baban Borde managed to study. All the iconic writers who inspired him, that ranged from Bhasaheb Ambedkar to Anna Bhau Sathe, and from Laxman Gaikwad to Laxman Mane... only university in the region, situated in Aurangbad, which admitted Baban Borde on account of his Scheduled Tribe certificate.(161)

Baban Borde's PhD was from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University on the writings on Social Reformer Anna Bhau Sathe's writing. His thesis was rejected by the referees due to weak English and the illogical chapterization. He got the thesis rewritten by the American scholar who had come to Aurangabad to see Ajanta and Ellora Caves. He gets his thesis published by paying a publisher a sum of Rs. 50,000. After the book was out he wanted to get it reviewed. But no journal or newspaper showed interest in doing it for him. Dr. Saxena willfully spreads the rumours that Baban Borde had approached him to review the book. Learning about the malicious mischief of Dr. Saxena, Baban Borde loses his temper and slaps Dr. Saxena.

Despite of his extremely poor performance in the interview, he was selected because he was found qualified on paper by the state government's representative on his selection panel. After the first departmental meeting convened for the introduction of Baban Borde, he flares out at Dr. Marzban and reminds him that he was a 'Self-Made Man'. Students often complained that Baban Borde intentionally insulted the English medium students. The students complained it to Professor Tiwari that they did not pay attention to his lectures because, "there is nothing to pay attention to for all he does is to dictate notes"(164). Even the office staff members were bugged by him as he demands for some or the other stationary stuff. Dr Marzaban has already antagonized Baban Borde by offering him condom when he had asked him for a rubber (erasure) and by calling him 'beautiful' in the place of handsome. Baban Borde is boastful and a man of self-importance. He shouts at Mr. Bhave for not wishing him 'good morning' when the latter had seen him at the parking. He calls Mr. Bhave castiest for putting his name at the bottom of the seniority list on the teachers' register. When the faculties of the English department come to the agreement to call one another by their first name, Baban Borde is alone to oppose it. He argues that, "Only menials are called by first names...not people who command respect in society" (168). Baban Borde's pronunciation is very funny. He pronounces the word 'peon' as *pee-on*, 'bowl' as *bowel* 'lectueres' as *lecturaars* and 'Hamlet' as *helmet*. Baban Borde desires to own a car and enrolls for a driving course. After a month long instruction, he appears for the driving test. On failing in the driving test he fights with the driving school and ask for the refund of his fees. He buys a second hand Maruti 800 at the modest price of 30,500, cheaper than Mr. Bhave's Hero Honda. He wishes to give an impression that he believes in simple living and high thinking. Students play prank by scribbling on his car that it is "A SELF-MADE CAR FOR A SELF-MADE MAN" (172).

Since Baban Borde was appointed under state government's special recruitment drive, it was mandatory on his part to give a public lecture on tribal community. During his public lecture, "people wondered how a man with such a poor knowledge of Queen's language has been made a reader in so prestigious an institution as the Oxford of the East, and that too in its English department. It probably made Queen Victoria turn in her grave!"(179). Professor Tiwari announces that the special lecture will be followed by the lunch sponsored by director of the higher education, Maharashtra state to celebrate the success of his "colleague Baban Borde's insightful talk"(179). Baban Borde already harbours a grudge against Dr. Marzban for his disparaging remarks against him. He gets a providential opportunity to settle the scores with Dr. Marzban by occupying the Macaulay Hall where the latter conducts his seminars. Dr. Marzban asks Baban Borde for explanation, the latter replies, "the Macaulay Hall is not your father's property" (182). Dr. Marzban did not feel like engaging with him in an altercation. Baban Borde was not content with this revenge. Dr. Murzban was invited to attend a Book Launch at Bombay. Out of sheer excitement of his success as a poet, he forgets to apply for the duty leave and fails to return till Monday. Baban Borde unmistakably lays his hands on the unsigned leave card of Dr. Murzban and he decides to make an issue out of it to malign Dr. Marzban's image. With the help of the American scholar who had helped him rewrite his thesis, Baban Borde drafted a letter to attract the authorities' attention to Dr. Marzban's 'dereliction of duty'. The copies of the letters were forwarded to President and Prime Minister of India, Governor and Chief Minister, The director of

Higher education of Maharashtra, Vice Chancellor and Registrar and Head of the English department of the Oxford of the East. The letter elicited no response from any of the authorities. Professor Tiwari helped Dr. Marzban resolve the issue of his duty leave and also congratulated him for his publication.

Eighth chapter of the novel titled 'Iranian's Ire', discusses the trick of one Iranian student to expose the corruption and malpractices prevalent in the OE, its afflicted college and the institutes. Professor Tiwari receives a courier from Tehran containing a video cassette. A few days later Professor Tiwari receives a call from an unknown caller asking him if he has seen the video. Without disclosing his identity the caller cautions Professor Tiwari that he should "not incur the Iranian's ire" (190). As Professor Tiwari plays the video, he sees a masked man speaking into the camera. The speaker says that the students from Iran, Iraq, and Palestine Syria come to Indian with high hopes to get quality education which they might not get in their own countries. However, some factors in Indian education throw wet blanket on their enthusiasm to study. Foreign students in OE are charged fees more than their Indian counterparts. The speaker names a private college Advanced English Language Institute of India situated in Nashik as a hub of corruption and its director Professor Kishore Rathod as fraudulent person. The video contains a sting operation of the Professor Kishore Rathod who robs the vulnerable foreign students in the name of giving them Indian degrees in higher education. The speaker, in the cassette, appeals honourable Vice Chancellor to look into the corrupt practices at Advanced English Language Institute of India. The speaker narrates that Professor Kishore Rathod "is not only corrupt, he is a womanizer too" (193). He extracts money from male students and asks for sexual favours from female students.

Then there comes a female speaker Tanaz on the camera who narrates her harrowing tale of sexual exploitation at the hands of Professor Kishore Rathod. He had asked her to accompany him to the seminar what he usually does with female students. During the air journey to Banaras where the seminar was to be held, Professor Kishore Rathod tried to get fresh with her. Much to her shock Professor Kishore Rathod makes her share a room with him, stating the shortage of the room as reason. He made her heavily drunk, despite of her protest and opposition. As she wakes up in the morning in the room that she had to share with Professor Kishore Rathod, she realizes that she was raped by him. She says that Professor Kishore Rathod had strong political connections. Hence students, who had suffered similar fate, are reluctant to complain against him. She recommends the disaffiliation of the Advanced English Language Institute of India by OE. The caller requests Professor Tiwari to initiate the corrective measure against the wrongdoing happening at the Advanced English Language Institute of India. Professor Tiwari tells the caller about his limitation on direct intervention in the functioning of the Advanced English Language Institute of India.

The caller continues to say that in the department of Professor Tiwari there are "cats among the pigeons" (202). The caller hints at the corrupt and coercive ways of Baban Borde against the Iranian Students. On Professor Tiwari's insistence the caller agrees to visit him at his residence. Farbod and Vida are the Iranian students who visit Professor Tiwari. They call Baban Borde "corrupt and scheming" (203). They complain that Baban Borde had friends who are PhD supervisors in the rural parts of Maharashtra. The students who fail to get research supervisors at the university department or affiliated colleges in the city, fall in the clutches of Baban Bordes friends who "like octopuses...trap their victims in the their tentacles...male students are asked for money...female students are asked for sex"(204). Shaken with these details, Professor Tiwari desires to meet Baban Borde in person however the latter evades the meeting. Finally, Baban Borde agrees to meet Professor Tiwari and in the evening. He reaches Professor Tiwari's office late by an hour than time decided between them. When Professor Tiwari broaches the topic of the complaints against him in the video, Baban Borde vehemently says that the former should side with his colleagues not with any unknown, unreliable person who might be bent on maligning his image. He goes onto to inform Professor

Tiwari that students talk about his fake PhD that he got by paying money. Baban Borde plans to exact retribution on Professor Tiwari for suspecting him of malpractices. Baban Borde belonged to scheduled Tribes. He decides to use 'Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Atrocities Act' against Professor Tiwari who is Brahmin, for causing stress and mental harassment to Baban Borde by defaming him. The act, once invoked, attracts severe punishment and does not leave the option of bail to the offender. Baban Borde schemes to extract a large amount of money from Professor Tiwari by framing him in the act. Professor Tiwari finds himself on the tenterhooks as he receives a legal notice under the atrocity's act. Professor Tiwari's lawyer suggests him an option of the out-of-court-settlement. Baban Borde's lawyer assures him that he can get large sum as a compensation of the damages and will get written apology too. As per the clauses mentioned in the out-of-court-settlement Professor Tiwari would lose the right to call himself as a boss of Baban Borde and he will also buy Borde a brand new Santro car. Professor Tiwari's lawyer calls the atrocity act as an act of revenge.

Ninth chapter of the novel titled 'Macaulay's administration', discusses the trial and tribulation that Dr. Marzban had to go through for being a gay professor in the English department of OE. Baban Borde, who succeeds in taming his boss Professor Tiwari, decides to focus on Dr. Marzban whom he mortally resents. Baban Borde's first attempt to academically harm Dr. Marzban turns out to be futile. Hence he plans something more serious. He plans to invoke the section 377 of Indian Penal Code which criminalizes homosexuality against Dr. Marzban who was openly gay. Baban Borde consults his lawyer who had helped him in tricking on Professor Tiwari. The lawyer, who insists on a concrete evidence to prove that Dr. Marzban is a practicing homosexual, suggests that Baban Borde may say this in the court that Dr. Marzban tried to rape him. However this goes against the pride of Baban Borde and he slaps his lawyer. Dr. Marzban goes with Kamalakant to his village Repalle in Andhra Pradesh. He spends a few days there with Kamalakant. As he comes back To Poona, he finds a court notice in his letter box. Baban Borde's lawyer had charged him with being homosexual under 377 of Indian Penal Code. Dr. Marzban consults his Parsi lawyer who assures him that he would come out unscathed from this legal battle. Baban Borde's lawyer again requests him to agree to say that he was raped by Dr. Marzban to make a strong case against him. Baban Borde not only refuses to accept the suggestion of his lawyer but doubts the depth of his knowledge of law.

As the court battle ensues, the students, under the leadership of Kamalakant, create a support system in favour of Dr. Marzban who was loved by students for his knowledge and teaching skills. His students believed that, "being a homosexual and a good teacher is any day better than being a heterosexual and a bad teacher" (224). Baban Borde's lawyer argues that carnal intercourse with the person of same sex is against the order of nature. He contends that Dr. Marzban indulges in such intercourse with other men voluntarily and hence he deserves the severest possible punishment. However, when the judge asks the lawyer to prove it, he fumbles. Dr. Marzban's lawyer, who is also a gay, presents a justifiable case in the favour of him and exposes the hollowness in the accusation of Baban Bordes' s lawyer. Dr. Marzban's lawyer cunningly historicizes the homosexuality and even goes to the extent of proving that homosexuality exists in animals too. Judges had to take note of his arguments and give verdict in favour of Dr. Marzban. Dr. Marzban had a chance to compel Baban Borde pay cost to him but he forgives him pityingly.

Tenth chapter of the novel titled 'Gender justice', glimpses through the married life of Mrs Veronica D'Costa and her husband. Despite being highly educated and highly placed in the field of higher education, Mrs Veronica D'Costa is at the receiving end of patriarchal oppression. Her husband constantly gives her ultimatum to improve her job prospectus and secure higher position by exploiting her "closeness with the boss"(240). He believes that Mrs Veronica D'Costa, being a woman, can easily get promotion. While Mrs

Veronica D'Costa does not believe that her being a woman is strength in any manner. She also tells her husband that if they had not converted to Christianity, she would have got higher position through the quota of reserved category. She says, "Our ancestors should not have converted to Christianity. We should have remained the chmars we originally were. Then we would have got the highest positions in the university on a platter" (238). Mr. D'Costa who is supposedly ill-informed about the procedure teachers' promotion in higher education gives her one year's time to secure reader's post, failing which she will have to leave the job. He wants her to try searching for the job in other universities like JNU or Bombay University or go to Canada with him. He suspects her liaison with Professor Tiwari which, according to him, should bear the fruit of her promotion. He wants her to do a job in Bombay University because they can be together when he comes back to India from Canada. Another reason why he thinks that Mrs Veronica D'Costa can get a job in Bombay University is that it "no longer had the aura that it once did"(241).

Professor Tiwari assures her that he would make her head of the department since he is due for retirement in a year. However, Mrs Veronica D'Costa is not deluded with this assurance because she knows that, " Dr. Saxena, Ankit Jadhav and BhanBorde were waiting like hawks to swoop down on Professor Tiwari's chair"(241). Because of the mounting pressure from her husband, Mrs Veronica D'Costa is compelled to resign her job. Dr. Urmila Rele immediately writes a letter to Professor Tiwari to remind that his department is now without any female teacher and it amounts to violation of the state government's rules. Professor Tiwari replies her letter rather flippantly which enrages her. He thinks that as per the government's rule the reservation is not on the basis of gender but it is on the basis of category. However when he goes to meet Vice chancellor to report Dr. Urmila Rele's constant intervention in his department, he was given to understand that there should one female staff in the department. Dr. Saxena and Ankit Jadhav offer their wives as the prospective female candidates for the post of female teacher in the department. Both the candidates apply for the post and are duly interviewed. Subject expert on their selection panel is JNU don Professor Martand Potdudke who's appointment in JNU is questioned by a few for his "pro-hindutva views"(253). He was not married but "had several extra-marital affairs, some of them with his student who swanned over him"(254). The candidate Ujwala Despande, Ankit Jadhav's wife was selected in the interview. Dr. Saxena is miffed with the rejection of his wife. He deduces that Ujwala Despande was selected by Professor Martand Potdudke because both of them are Maharashtrian Brahmins. Dr. Urmila Rele who happened to know Ujwala Despande is pleased with her appointment.

Dr. Marzban starts teaching the course LGBTQI studies in his department. However the course is not formally approved by the board of the studies. The chairman of the board of the studies is Professor Kishore Rathod, PhD. The issues raised by the Iranian students in their videos against him, "did nothing to stop him from winning elections and becoming the dean, even as his nefarious activities continued unabated"(258). All ten members of the board of the studies turned down the proposal of the course LGBTQI studies. Dr. Marzban's strong plea in favour of the course remains unheard and unsupported. It is when Ankit Jadhav becomes an ex-officio member of the BOS from the Scheduled Caste quota, the course could see a light of the day. Ankit Jadhav presents his ideas in favour of the course in such a manner that none of the BOS members were inclined to counter him.

Eleventh and the last chapter of the novel titled 'HOD Hatao, Department Bachao' starts with the farewell ceremony of Professor Tiwari. The ceremony was attended by all teaching and non-teaching staff except Baban Borde. Emotionally charged speeches were delivered by the people present for the function. On the next day Dr. Saxena enters the Head's cabin and assumes the seat of Professor Tiwari considering that his patience has been rewarded and the thing that he only fantasized has become a fact. Dr. Saxena ponders over so many things that he would do as head of the department. Crowd of the teachers and students

gathered to congratulate Dr. Saxena. Prof Kishore Rathod, The Dean of Arts Faculty then, congratulates Dr. Saxena. Everything was like a dream for him since everything was moving as he had visualized. But there is a fix. Vice Chancellor appointed Ankit Jadhav as head of the department, leaving Dr. Saxena wringing his hands. Vice chancellor had to remind Dr. Saxena that he was on a contractual post while Ankit Jadhav was on a permanent post. Ankit Jadhav had cultivated a good rapport with the Vice Chancellor. Ankit Jadhav's plan of inviting Professor Gargee Spark to the department is not just approved and supported by the Vice Chancellor but it was fully funded too.

During the speech of Professor Gargee Spark, Baban Borde asks some very pointless questions. After the programme, he even goes to the extent of requesting Professor Gargee Spark to invite him to her university since he had never been abroad. She did not give an iota of the thought to his request because she knows that "he was unfit to teach even at the Oxford of the East"(274).

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Students were dissatisfied with the kind of teaching done by the newly appointed teaching assistants. The students of LGBTQI grew tired with Sameer Damle's handling of the subject. They remembered Dr. Marzban's teaching of the subject which they literally revered. Aggrieved students came together to take the situation in their stride. They decide to voice their protest through Gandhian style Hunger strike. A bunch of girls and boys sat on a hunger strike in the quadrangle of the department with the placard in their hands,

“HOD hatao, Department Bachao. *Remove the HOD, Save the department*”(278). The students’ complain is that Ujwala Deshpande discriminated between English and Marathi Medium students. The students found the Teaching assistants appointed by Ujwala Deshpande are incompetent and inexperienced. The students of LGBTQI did not want Sameer Damle to teach the subject because of his deficient knowledge of the subject. The agitating students also demanded that Ujwala Deshpande should relinquish the charge of headship and Dr. Marzban should be given the subject LGBTQI for teaching. Health of the students seated for the hunger strike got rapidly deteriorated. Their worried parents called Vice Chancellor and asked him to resolve the issue or face the consequences. Vice Chancellor instructs Ujwala Deshpande to leave the position of the head of the department. The students of LGBTQI were given extra time to study by postponing their examinations.

Vice Chancellor convenes the meeting of the teachers of English department to announce the name of the new head of the department. Much to their shock, the new head of the department was Professor Ravalgaonkar who also headed the department of Marathi. Vice Chancellor dictates that none from the English department of professor then and hence were unfit to become head as per the Maharashtra State University’s Act, 1994. For students it was unimaginable to have a Marathi professor as their head of the department. Print media also took this ruling of the Vice Chancellor rather seriously. Professor Ravalgaonkar conducts his first departmental meeting with his colleagues after taking charge of the head. In the meeting he stressed that everyone should learn speak in Marathi. He rules that those who cannot fail the competency test of Marathi would lose his annual increment. Weirdest of all, he said that all the lectures of the English department should be taken in Marathi. Professor Ravalgaonkar had a nativist bent of nature and hence he resents the use of English as a language of colonizer. He imposes a traditional dress code on students. Dr. Marzban presents a kilo of Ravalgaon lozenges to Professor Ravalgaonkar and informs him that he took his “first lecture on *Sexpyaare* in Marathi” (287). Professor Ravalgaonkar appreciates it but quickly suggest that even that information could have been given to him in Marathi.

Rao’s campus novel *Madam, Give Me My Sex* is a trend-setter because it squarely deals with the issues like reservation is jobs, queer identity, dismal politics in higher education, commercialization and devaluation of education, sycophancy, favouritism, nepotism and manipulation in university administration. Rao, with his ironical understatement, dry irreverent humour lays bare the deeper nuances of the academic politics at the university department. His views on reservation in jobs are balanced and unbiased since he bifocally sees at its merits and demerits. Although he depicts one or two homosexual characters in the novel, he reflects on the gender politics of the heterosexual persons too. Besides homosexual love, he portrays the characters having adulterous love, one-sided love and so on. He does not shy away from being self-critical while had to describe a few unpleasant details of the character which is his alter-ego. Dr. Marzban, the protagonist of the novel, is shown to more temperate and pragmatic unlike Jim Dixon, Kinsley Amis’ angry young man. The interference of the government policies, students’ unions, newspaper reporters and the women studies department in the functioning of the English department is more lifelike. The novel is a portmanteau bag that contains the all the major issues that mar the higher education today. Persons from the superior academic position are also caricatured to highlight their idiosyncrasies. They are portrayed as ambitious, power-hungry, sadist, scheming, clownish and womanizing. Education is shown to be a turf in the novel where various forces like religious, political, ethnic, sexual, cultural, social, economic and national are simultaneously at play.



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