

# The Impact of maternal force in the Novels of Mulk Raj Anand and Chinua Achebe

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**Abstract:** The novels of Mulk Raj Anand and Chinua Achebe epitomize the fact that mother is deeply rooted in the conscious of the child and she is the core strength of home and what happens in the individual's life at home can affect society, mother is not an individual. She is an institution, a foundation upon which society is built. Anand in *Coolie*, *Two Leaves and a Bud* and Achebe in *Things Fall Apart* and *No Longer at Ease* reveal the power and influence of mother. They show that mother is guide, protector, preventer and nurturer of child as well as of the society. They have proven that she is the moral, cultural and social consciousness of child which is reflected in the development of the ideal society.

**IndexTerms** - Consciousness, epitomize, moral, spiritual, nurture, cultural, nourish, traditional, cherish, ethos, refuge, betrothe.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The present research paper is an attempt to throw light on the influence and the effect of mother in the life of an individual and in the society at large, Considering the everlasting impact of mother's teaching on the child, which is reflected in the nourishment of the moral, cultural and conventional values in the society. The novels of Mulk Raj Anand and Chinua Achebe depict the drama of human interactions. Through they are from different continents, from different countries, but as the socially committed writers they have presented social and cultural life of their countries in their novels, they both not only depict the contemporary social and cultural life of India and Nigeria but simultaneously they have tried to sow nourish the socio-cultural and moral values. Mulk Raj Anand in *Coolie* (1936) and *Two Leaves and a Bud* (1937) and Chinua Achebe in *Things Fall Apart*(1958) and *No Longer at Ease* (1960) have demonstrated that mother is not only an individual but an institution and foundation of home and society. She is the backbone of both an individual and society. These novels give a new perspective to consider mother as an asset of moral, spiritual and virtuous values of the human civilization, she nourishes child as well as society.

## 2. Impact of maternal force in the Novels:

Anand is prolific novelist, his novels deal with social issues like untouchability, exploitation suppression of downtrodden, caste and class discrimination. His work shows that he succeeds in interpreting the heart and soul of India. In "Coolie" he presents the life of India's millions. Munoo, a boy born in a Peasant's Family and leaves his village in search of job. Munoo symbolizes the caste discriminated and class discriminated social output. His journey

from one master to another master is pathetic tale of low class community. Through the realistic saga of Munoo Anand reveals the various aspects of Indian Family and social life.

Munoo encounters many difficulties and obstacles in his life, as an orphan child he is torture and suffered by time, fate and mastered, He is forced to work to unhygienic condition. He has to work hard even in his illness. He is completely alone and there is no one to care for him; but in the oddest situation of life Munoo does not stray from the right path of life. Whenever he is in difficulty he reminds his mother, he does not do any anti-social work or activity. At the time of playing with shield, his master's daughter, he remembers his mother's words, Anand writes, "he had been told in his childhood to regard every woman as a mother or sister. He called the apparition of Sheila in his mind Sister",<sup>1</sup> Whatever Munoo's mother taught him in his childhood is the norm of Indian social life, and the lesson given to Munoo is the never ending treasure of Indian culture, they are ever-lasting and deeply rooted in Munoo's mind. In the period of Munoo's sickness he in his fever he reminds the love and attention of his mother Anand writes:

When the ache in his limbs was evaporating with torturing slowness in the sweat, ... the unbearable agony of that drawn-out languishing which his body fat after its struggle for health with kind words, such as his mother used to utter : 'May I be your sacrifice! May I die for you! May I suffer instead of you, ...the magic of those words was an inheritance... through centers of motherhood.'<sup>2</sup>

It proves that Munoo in his life cherish the words of mother, the teaching of his mother is always there in his sub-conscious.

In *Two Leaves and a Bud*, Anand writes about the slavish plight of laborers in Assam tea plantation. While presenting the pathetic life of Ganga and his family, Anand also tackle the issues of Indian family life. Gangu insists his wife and daughter as workers in tea plantation. The novel is beautiful mirror of family life. Sajani and Laila are typical Indian mother and daughter who are totally devoted to Gangu. Sajani is an ideal mother. She lives in the worst situation of life but she is so devoted to her family. She supports her husband in every decision. She considers her husband as the companion of life and death. After her death she is always present in the mind of her daughter, like Munoo. , Laila is haunted by her mother memory. When she is alone in the forest to collect fuel for the hearth she sings, "Mother, O Mother, O my mother, Whenever the memory of you comes to me there is sudden pain in my heart",<sup>3</sup> It shows that through Sajani is physically departed from her home, but psychologically she is always present in her family. The memory of mother gives comfort to Sajani. It is only because she has occupied the mind of Laila. Anand writes:

The shadow image defined itself into a mask that stared with eyes of love on Leila's sad soul and seemed to say, 'Never mind, my beautiful, you will be happy I have told your Father to betrothe you and you will soon be married

and go to your husband's home but mind you look after your old father and your little brother, now that I am no more.<sup>4</sup>

The novel of Anand has described the ethos of Indian Family. He is very much concerned about the social and family norms, the eternal values are passed from generation to generation.

In the similar Zest Chinua Achebe, Who brought honor to his native Nigeria by writing, his *Things Fall Apart* depicts the socio-cultural life of traditional Igbo society. In this masterpiece Achebe portrays the heroic and tragic story of Okonkwo along with the conflict of the natives with the British people he was artistically woven the social, cultural, traditional family values of Nigerian village life. He proudly shows the dignified life of Igbo people. He has tried to exemplify that Nigerian people are not uncivilized, but they are cultured, they consider woman as "a mother is supreme."<sup>5</sup> In the novel Achebe has given the reason of mother's supremacy. Okonkwo, the protagonist takes refuge in his mother's land when he is banished by the British people from his native village. Achebe writes:

It is true that a child belongs to its Father. But when a father beats his child, it seeks sympathy in its mother's hut. A man belongs to his fatherland when there is sorrow and bitterness he finds refuge in his motherland. You mother is there to protect you.<sup>6</sup>

Okonkwo returns with new energy and enthusiasm to his native village from his mother's land. Achebe suggests that mother is the place of solace and comfort for the child. The arms of mother are always open her bosom is the best place to take rest.

In his novel *No Longer at Ease* Achebe has portrayed mother as the protector of customs and traditions. Obi Okonkwo, the central character falls in love with Clara, an osu girl. The osu is a person who belongs to low class family, almost untouchable community from the high class people, but obi's western education forces him to accept an osu girl as a wife. He thinks that it is illogical and irrational to abandon a person only on the basis of caste. Obi's parents are not ready to accept the girl, particularly his mother, she tells him not to marry with an outcaste girl, it is against the social norms, and the people of his community will not allow the girl in the society. She firmly says:

I have nothing to tell you in this matter except one thing, if you want to marry this girl. You must wait until I am no more. ---But if you do the thing while am alive, you will have my blood on your head, because I will kill myself.<sup>7</sup>

The words of Obi's mother show that the nurturing of mother is more powerful than the formal education. Obi's cancels his plan to marry Clara. He saves his mother's life. Achebe suggests that it is the mother whose teaching can affect family and positively and negatively. It also shows that mother has divine instinct and she has the power to transform the individual and society.

**Conclusion:** It is the noticeable that Anand and Achebe are from two different continents, from two different countries and from two different societies, but their novels show that in every community the influence and role of mother is the same. She is the anchor of the child's mind and soul. People may live anywhere, they may speak different languages, they may have different colors and costumes but their hearts, feelings and the blood is the same. The person, whoever he may be, Munoo, Laila ,Okonkwo or Obi is deeply attached to the mother, and he finds solace in the difficult situation at the mother's bosom. The mother whether she is Indian or Nigerian nurtures and protects her child as well as the society.

#### REFERENCES

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