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A Study Of Migrant Literature In Benyamin's Novel Jasmine Days

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ABSTRACT:

Benyamin's *Jasmine Days* presents a realistic picture of the social, historical and religious context surrounding the migrant communities in an Arab nation. The novel is remarkable for the presentation of a women's point of view by a male author. It also presents an uncompromising anatomy of modern migrant society torn apart by a revolution, divided by nationality, loyalty, exposes the tyrannical politics of citizenship and the strategic reduction of a community to a non-entity. Besides, it foregrounds the interrogation of the systems of governance, patriarchal family setup justice, and social attitude to religion and morality. This project is an new way to find out *Jasmine Days* is an example of migrant literature.

Indian literature has a distinct part and that tradition has not only influenced cultural, political, scientific, history of literary and mathematical developments in India, but the intellectual pluralism underlying the religious diversity. This heterodoxy within Hindu philosophy as well as India's other religious experiences, Jainism, flowering of Buddhism, and religions coming from a broad, particularly Islam. There are lots of famous Indian writers like Arundhati Roy, Rabindranath Tagore, R.K. Narayan Vikram Seth, Chetan bhagat and so many have brought Indian literature to a great peak in the English literature. The Indian writers uses themes like urbanization, modernization, feminism, migrant, identity crisis, empowerment and changing social dynamics of the modern Indian English writers of the literature.

Migrant literature is a writing based on migrants or telling their story of migration. Migrant people are whose left their homes, culture and get adopted to the new stage of another setting life. The term, 'Migration has been defined by oxford learner's advanced dictionary' as the movement in which large number of fauna and flora move from one to other settings.

It is rightly observed that migration involves some elements of excellent materials for the diaspora writing and immigrants see isolation, alienation, frustration and hardship they have tried to find a niche in newfound world. Contemporary migrant literature from Arabian Gulf to the exploration of ethical-political practices of the inhabited primarily. Benyamin's *Goat Days*, Deepak Unnikrishnan's temporary people Neha Vora's impossible citizens, Andrew Gardner's city of strangers and Prem Kurien's Kaleidoscopic ethnicity, where some of the examples of the needed sociological and ethnographic perspectives of the modern- day Gulf migration. In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries had been a unknown age of the migration literature.

Migrancy is also known as reigning trope the twentieth Century a essay Rushdie state that, "we all cross frontiers, in the sense, we are all migrant people" (Rushdie 279). The issues of migrant people did differ from individual crisis, situation complexity and place of migration.

Benny Benyamin Daniel is known widely by his pen name or else pseudonym Benyamin. He is an Indian novelist and short story writer in malayam from Njettor Kulanada, near Pandalam of south Indian state of Kerala. The novelist has sculptured the noel with focus on social, cultural and psychological impacts of migration people from various landscapes. Benyamin begin in 1971. He was educated in Catholicate College and then Pathanamthitta. He lived in kingdom of Bahrain from 1992 to 2013 before getting back to Kerala. He

had published some works like Manjaveyil Mara Nangal, *Jasmine Days* and the famous novel *Aadujeevitham*. He is a lower middle-class Syrian Christian family in Kerala. Benyamin's *Jasmine Days* explores the identities crisis and migrant literature in it and dynamics of Arab Spring. In his writing came later, he always remembered his homeland, the greenery, the monsoons, the rivers and then forests of the state Kerala. The writings of Benyamin started in the age of twenty-nine and his first story *Shathru* was published in literary supplement in 1999. Next, *Euthanasia*, anthology of short stories came out in 2001.

Benyamin became an great shining star in a short period due to his publication of his novel *Aadujeevitham* in 2008. This novel later got translated into English as *Goat Days* by Joseph Koyippally. The novel first got published as a serial form in *Mathrubhumi* illustrated weekly and a migrant worker who struggled a lot in Saudi Arabia. He has attained several awards like, Literary prize 2012, DSC prize for south Asian literature in 2013 and Kerala Literally Academy Award for Benyamin in 2009.

Jasmine Days won inaugural JCB prize in India and Indian express, open and scroll book of the year. First published in India Malayalam as Mullappo Niramulla Pakalukal in 2016 and was later translated into English by Shahnaz Habib. A young Pakistani women Sameera in unnamed middle eastern country called as "the city" (16), she brings her life against the Arab Spring enyamin's *Jasmine Days* is the latest addition of the migrant literature and then the lifestyle of south Asian in an unnamed middle eastern city. Where the rights of revolution got hanged into the destruction words and then the division of the people among themselves in 'the city'. The novel gets spilled in the voice of a adolescent Pakistani immigrant Sameera Parvin. She had moved in due to her father and with her extended family members. It is said, "Baba had lived alone, in his city for twenty-two long years" (23)

The novel got divided into six parts, Sameera Parvin is working as a radio jockey in India radio station, she living with her fellow migrant people. Later, she gets suffered due to her hands and people surrounding her in "the city". Sameera refers her arrival to 'the city'.

Sameera refers her arrival to the city as a "Human Trafficking" (27). The reasons and the identity crisis of the novel and the job prospects of the protagonists is the main focus of the dissertation. It seems to be a far-distanced or fetched dream of the young Pakistan girl for the reason of the migrant literature and its identities crisis of the novel *Jasmine Days*.

The themes and topics, the cultural contexts of his novels have been reflecting the same themes of post colonialism, Diaspora writers, migrant literature, identity crisis, Indian literature, and Political fiction. Even thou the migrant people have a lot of difficulties in their lives and their woks can be said in reflect to immigrant people. In the *Jasmine Days* the important themes are therefore freedom, tyranny, consumerism, individuality, women's rights and the issues of migrants.

Women in Benyamin's novel are treated in a freedom manner has a outlook but in the core level there are surrounded by their family men's and call themselves *Harami*. In this novel the protagonists between India, Venezuela and some middle east countries. Benyamin only chooses gulf countries as location of his novels ,because he has lived there for a substantial period of time. The state of Kerala is well known for the supplement of workforce to gulf countries, since from the day when the oil exporting countries which formed a group of people to raise price and income, this was the reason for the countries to spend more money on the infrastructure. The character selection of Benyamin in his *Jasmine Days* is the nationality of his protagonist as a Pakistani and some characters from other countries too. This brought him a universal character. The irony of diasporic existence. In the particular country, diasporic community, once got invited for their manpower, potential to the contribute or development of the specific country, but in political crisis they seem unwanted. The novel mainly focus in diasporic community from Indian subcontinent, the religion seems difference among the native people because of political imbroglio.

Generally Post colonial concepts are the reflections of twentieth century issues over the world. It includes such as Diaspora, Centre, ethnicity, heredity, mimicry and identity are also related to immigrant experience. Migration literature invariably 'cope with migration' in a various way, from displaced identities as 'painful' and migration experience. This migrant novel is just portrayal of the relationship between two branches of the literature in migrant characters.

The complex relationship in migrant to the gulf Arab states in Centre of *Jasmine Days* (2014), and *Al Arabian Novel Factory* (2014), this got translated into English from Malayalam by award winning writer Benyamin .His Best selling novel were *Goat Days* (2008). It describes the exploitation of a migrant worker from state of Kerala in Saudi Arabia, these two novels depicts a kind of long migrant communities, these novel

are intertwined with the ideas of political change in unnamed city of Arab. Which was been adopted by the migrant has their second home, a city is much closer to Bahrain where are novelist Benyamin lived from 1992 and he even worked as an engineer till he gets back to Kerala in 2013.

In novel, *Al Arabian Novel Factory* got published in 2019, explores the inner lying story of a Malayali, named Reji.who worked in a rental car agency has a loyal man and feels for the repercussions of the protests which got repressed by the ruling regime. A central theme in both the novels *Jasmine Days* and *Al Arabian Novel Factory* are the ways that migrants have got towards anti-regime protests and the part supporting the government 's repression inward of native citizens. The novelist has described a pro-regime sentiment in the lives of migrants and a political self-interest as Malayali characters. The messages he had converted to his Malayalam readership, brings out the economics space to which migrants belong in Bahrain and some other gulf states. The way of approaching the condition of migration and political change in the region is highlighted in the novel.

Jasmine Days and *Al Arabian Novel Factory* had taken a step further by attracting with the city's internal politics, in which non-citizens are included into the gulf city. Two of the novels have used the facts and real incidents of social and political reality of Bahrain. After and before the 2011 uprising to fictional Arab city's struggle for freedom, or known as Arab Spring. These novels are utterly interconnected, with the portrayal of protagonists, in investigating and documenting the dangerous ways of writing about the following protests.

I selected *Jasmine Days* has my project topic because I was inspired by various stages of protests, revolution, identities crisis in the storyline and I also gone through the difficulties faces by the young girl Sameera Parvin in unnamed city of the eastern side. The local people of the particular countries are eager in leading the protests against the "Majesty" and the loss of her Baba in the revolutionary protest of the native people. I meant to get a message to the society that we should be aware of our Freedom, Individuality, women's Right, Identity crisis and Citizenship. Later, the setbacks of migrant issues in and out of the people in their lives are the focal theme of the dissertation. They even have sacrificed a lot of good and best experiences in an alienated land and their suffering. The novelist depicts the trauma of the immigrant middle class working people of the middle eastern city. Jasmine day, where the revolution breaks out, Sameera's delight.

Life started to get faint. Days of Sameera's life seem to be darker in the future times. We have a characters like Sameera Parvin, Baba, Taya ghar, Ali, Tunes malayalam, Hindi station and other characters of this novel. The picture of a young girl's lives and life style mindset, job, protest, revolution, freedom and women rights also can be seen in this novel of Benyamin's *Jasmine Days*. Writing is an act of communication. It also needs the reads reviews who can only bring their own experience, cultural aspects and then linguistic understanding of the text. Art of work is interpreted based on its crafts man-ship of material sing characterization and then narrative techniques Benyamin has a unique way and different mindset as a writer of the novels.

The writing style of this novel can be defined as the Benyamin writing. It is the technique that an individual writer uses his writing style. The different writing style of other writer is based on different tone, background of the novel, syntax, place, theme and words choice. The voice that readers listen to heard throughout the novel with the words of Benyamin. Likewise, the novel *Jasmine Days* of Benyamin is narrated in the fist person narrative technique by the writer and auto biographical narrative.

Everywhere in the world, migrant workers are facing more difficulties. They had mistreatment behaviour. The majority of migrant employees received no respect from their employers. In this essay, we use Benyamin's book *Goat Days* and *Jasmine Days* to talk about the difficulties faced by migrant laborers, Benyamin.

Famous Indian author (Benny Daniel) is a novelist. His entire body of work was initially published in Malayalam. He spent twenty years in Bahrain due to the employment opportunities his first-class graduation grade provided. Both works are set in a country in the Middle East and discuss the enslavement of migrants.

He questions how the residents there suffer and how they strive to get by. How were they coerced into becoming slaves? , What is the cause of the population shift to the Middle East? These are the common topics that are covered in this essay.

The most well-known books by Benyamin are *Goat Days* and *Jasmine Days*. Both discuss the difficulties faced by migrant labor. He worked in Bahrain as a migrant laborer as well. He encountered several difficulties while working there as well. His two books take a closer look at the difficulties faced by migrant laborers in Middle Eastern nations. They were made to perform the task without any consideration or a fair wage. Najeeb, a character in the book *Goat Days*, struggles with being a slave, and Sameera, a character in the book *Jasmine Days*, struggles with dominance. Both received no appreciation for their efforts. The book contain genuine.

Najeeb, a newlywed with a wife who is four months pregnant, moved to Saudi Arabia in search of better employment opportunities. But after being there and waiting until nightfall, a Muslim (boss) came and took their passports away from him and his friend Hakeem. At the time, neither was aware that they would be forced to labor as slaves in a desert. Najeeb was pleased that he will soon be an Arab NRI. But that wasn't actually true and applicable. They were kept apart at nearby farms. He then worked as an Arab slave, shepherding hundreds of goats. He did not receive enough food or water. He went a long period without taking a bath, too.

His way of living in Kerala was completely different. They followed numerous rites and hygiene practices. Because of this, he had a difficult time adjusting to this way of life in his new location. For three and a half years, he managed to survive there. "I lived on an alien planet inhabited by some goats, my arab and me." (Goat Days,33).

Sadly, Hameed's arbab caught him returning to the property once more. It causes Najeeb a lot of grief. His name appeared in the list of visa holders after a short while. Then he went back to Kerala, where he was born.

"Mine was a goat's life." (Goat Days , 45) He claimed that his life is similar to a goat's. He endures even greater suffering as a result of all the challenges he has endured in the past. Najeeb's life in the Gulf Country is an incredible real story.

This is one aspect of migrant workers' challenges. On the flip side, there are people who suffer in cities in quite different ways. That is what the author of *Jasmine Days* intended for readers to take away from it.

A Pakistani woman named Sameera moved to the Middle East Gulf nation in search of a better job. Her relatives are in Pakistan. In an Orange Radio, she was a radio jockey. Programs in Malayalam and Urdu are recorded. The majority of people at that radio station are Malayalis who immigrated. In the Facebook game City Villa, she had a friend named Ali Fardan. Everyone was impacted at the time by the Arab Spring revolt. The life of Sameera was also impacted. The Shias, who were considered second-class citizens, and the Sunnis, who were considered first-class citizens, also engaged in conflict. She was therefore more influenced by it. Why were people battling in the name of the same God? she asked herself. She also had to deal with masculine power. She also had to deal with a dispute between the Malayalam Mafia and her radio station. However, she was immediately impacted after that. She dealt with each of these simultaneously. She found it more difficult to handle everything by herself.

Further important iconic character in the book is Ali. He wasn't first taken seriously, but at the height of the revolution, he had joined in. She made an effort to engage Ali in ongoing dialogue regarding the revolution. At that point, she asked him, "So you've given up on City Villa and Social War for the revolution? The revolution, or is it the newest Facebook game? (Jasmine Days, 24)

She was placed under house arrest after that and believed she would eventually be sent back to Pakistan. At that time, her father also passed away. She had a lot of political problems when she moved to the Middle Eastern country. On October 24, 2018, this book was awarded the JCB Prize for Literature.

In both novels, one organization or one person had control over the populace. They were denied freedom. For their bare necessities, they had to fight hard. They lacked adequate finances and other resources.

They felt alone and helpless. Few people used to succeed after going through all of this. And we will never be aware of all the migrant workers' stories. In different ways, both men and women are having difficulty. Everywhere they go, women seem to encounter dominance. They merely arrived to work to support their families and the local economy. Very few people who move abroad land a good job. However, the majority of businesses dominate the workforce. It is not the proper action. These two books serve as illustrations of migrant laborers' challenges. Many individual continued to suffer, as these two works showed. But despite there is nothing to take care of. We can only pray for them. The dilemma of the migrant literature is largely in his novel is with regard, to their participation in the policies of the host country. It is the binary of existence, morality that is seen emerging as the agitation process. Their existence demand being on the right side of authorities in this dictatorial set-up, while morality beckons in the opposite direction. The moral question relates to the legitimacy of his majesty rule_ he being from the minority which does not have the authority to rule over majority according to democratic principles. Besides, his personal lifestyle cruel characters divests him of the moral authority to rule. .Benyamin's *Jasmine Days* comes from his own experience of living in a middle east country for so many years. Several of the characters in the book_ Sameera's family that had settle in the city for many years, the youth in her office and others_ are based on real life. People that the author has met. The shia and sunni of the city height in demanding the expulsions of the migrant because they think their jobs go to the letter material existence over shadows of abstract moral and cultural wheels.

In themes, the book peeps into the life of migrants who have always been on the margins and the effects of the revolution. On their lives in which they have no say. It is a naked exposure of the evils of both majoritarianism and dictatorship, the prosecution of humans on sectarian division and above all the questions of belonging found by migrants in a foreign land. The novel *Jasmine Days*, in that sense has a Potent message even as one may not agree to poet and critic C.P. Surendran's criticism of the publishing industry for its interest in projecting a debut author. One would, however support his assessment that this novel is a rather leisurely effort in expounding the pointlessness of religion_ the violent strife in this instance between Shia and Sunni fractions of Islam, the futility of the urge for freedom in a kingdom that stifles it by means of terrors, rewards and money; the privations of Sameera, a girl with a spark unable to catch fire under the wet blanket of a joint, conventional Muslim family; and a furtive love affair whose defining moment occurs late.

The protagonist of *Jasmine Days*, Sameera come to term with herself as a migrant, endoring every experience she had during the revolution and simultaneously invoking a kind of universal experience of her condition of exile. The double marginalization the experience set apart the novel, as an outsider story set in the background of the revolution. *Jasmine Days* by Benyamin thus emerges to be a re-reading of modern migrant literature offering us deep insight into the themes of migrant literature. In the contemporary era, the Subaltern could not rise above the social political and economic setup constructed against him. It is blurred and diminished by barless prejudices based on religion, caste, race and language. Hence even the virtual protest and end with a 'Justice for' hash_tag without any emancipation in reality.

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