

SOCIAL ISSUES AND EMOTIONAL HEALING PORTRAYED IN THE SELECT WORKS OF SUDEEP NAGARKAR

Sasikumar A

*Department of English Sri Ram Nallamani Yadava College of Arts and Science Kodikurichi,
Tenkasi*

DR. P. Boomiraja

*Research Head in English Sri Ram Nallamani Yadava College of Arts and Science Kodikurichi,
Tenkasi*

Abstract

The world in the past comprised so much peace and healthy relationships, urbanization and globalization of the present have altered the minds of the people to an extent that, human relationships and humanity do not exist much. Mundane life has attracted so much materialism and falsehood that people have started to wear blinders to avoid witnessing the pain of the others. One is always ready to either stab or literally cherish the sufferings of others. Finding real love, humaneness and trust-worthy people seem to be a difficult task in the present, the bestseller novelist from India Sudeep Nagarkar, has come up with some works which provide the sense of healing and therapy. The readers definitely are provided with the mixture of healthy human relationships which themselves help in having healthy human feelings and support through the thick and thin and those feelings and emotional bond help the readers in getting the nourishment necessary to understand and importance of people, relationships and benefits of being authentic to oneself and others. It Started with a Friend Request and You're the Password to My Life significantly deal with importance of human relationships. By the end of the day, one has to depend upon the other, it is at that moment the true colours of the other gets revealed. The novelist has expressed the same with the modern world in the picture, this paper would analyse such aspects dealt by the novelist.

Keywords: Relationship, Social Issues, Pain, Feelings.

Introduction of the Author

Sudeep Nagarkar was born on 26th February, 1988 is a contemporary writer of fiction from India. He has written romantic novels and they are based on recent times. The first book of Sudeep was *Few Things Left Unsaid* which was published in the year 2011. His most popular work is *It Started with a Friend Request*, published in 2013.

Sudeep was born in a conventional Marathi Brahmin family to Jayant Nagarkar and Manju Nagarkar. He has completed his engineering and did M.B.A after that, he is married to his long-time girlfriend. In order to pursue his higher studies, he left his job and now he has taken up writing as his profession. His works include *Few Things Left Unsaid*, *That's the Way We Met*, *It Started with a Friend Request*, *Sorry You're Not My Type*, *You're the Password to My Life*, *You are Trending in My Dreams*, *She Swiped Right into My Heart*, *All Rights Reserved For You*, *Our Story Needs No Filter*, and *She Friend-Zoned My Love*.

Review of Literature

In an interview with The Hindu, Sudeep Nagarkar has on talking about social issues and his latest work he says, "What I write is a reflection of society and how the current generation works." While dealing the social issues faced by an overweight girl, the writer shares the difficulties and relates with the victim, and at the same time provides some positivity required for the readers.

Sudeep Nagarkar while talking to social issues says, love marriages itself is a social taboo according to many. Mostly people view it as a problem, and they don't accept when the relationship is between two persons of different communities or religion. Even the educated class, and modern people fail to understand, so that itself takes the form of a social issue.

Tiwari, Abhishek (2015), in is review on *Few Things Left Unsaid: Was your promise of love fulfilled?* talks about the real definition of love in the present scenario. The real metropolitan culture of insignificant relationships and absurdity in love in the Indian context are portrayed in this novel.

Social Issues Depicted

Sudeep Nagarkar, the contemporary writer has been focusing on some of the recent issues, which aren't so much grave in nature but when considered deeply, they tend to bring unforeseen trouble to the people concerned. India is a country, despite the changes and globalization, people haven't changed in their traditional outlooks. The conventional attitude of the people is still intact, the novelist through his works throws lights on the problems of friendship and love in the recent times.

Love is considered to be divine if it is true between two people, if are genuine with each other, but that takes an adverse turn when people take it for granted. Presently, people have become selfish and focus on personal betterment, and finding true souls to be true to you either as a friend or a life partner is something serious to be pondered over. The novelist focuses on friendship and true love, which is difficult to be found in the world, where people have turned out to be self-centered.

The world has gone far beyond the social issues like feminism, rights of women, gender discrimination, child abuse etcetera, many changes have crept into the society, the reason behind someone befriending you itself has become an issue, such a problem arise in the life of the male

protagonist in *It Started with a Friend Request*. Unaware of the true intentions, Akaashdeep is caught up in some serious issues.

The real meaning of love has altered in the recent times, with so much improvements in technology, people have altered their hearts and minds, Tamanna, who appears to be a serious, shy little girl very much devoted to the work, is heartbroken for silly reasons. People have started to earn in lakhs so easily, but have gone weak mentally. Psychologically the present generation has become so fragile that they could accept the denial of a person with ease, Tamanna in this particular novel takes some adverse steps, which only ends her life.

The true colours of the people never come to the forefront, everybody wears the masks, not just one mask but many, as stated in the poem, *Once Upon a Time*, by Gabriel Okara, people have started to wear office mask, house mask, friendly mask, mask for social gatherings, and life has become artificial, Tamanna who pretends to be sober and so much practical behaves very differently in the absence of others, and in the presence of Akaashdeep.

Akaashdeep too has an artificiality, he behaves differently with Tamanna and his behavior changes in the presence of Aleesha. He talks in a good way to Tamanna and behaves to be matured just to gain some good name and perks to get into better position, thereby playing with the emotions of a girl has become mundanely normal, because one has to survive in the society where everything is a competition. He plays a dual role as Akaash and as Deep and in the end tries to justify his stand for the sake of his love.

‘Yes sir,’ ‘A’ stands for Akash,’ he stammered.

‘So I’m guessing your full name is Akaashdeep- AKASH and DEEP?’

‘Yes sir,’ he somehow managed to say, stealing a glance at Aleesha, but her face was expressionless. (174)

Self-centeredness has begun to dominate people, that is the reason to betray others, Tamanna on knowing Aleesha was responsible for her mental trauma decides to take revenge by putting the blame of Akaash and thus creates a rift in the relationship of Akaash and Aleesha. Despite the sisterly bond shared by them, Tamanna behaves crookedly, which shows, people are selfish and could go to any extent to get their desires fulfilled.

Love isn’t addiction, it’s the attachment and obsession that causes destruction. The saddest truth in all this chaos was that Tamanna had closed her eyes forever, leaving behind many unanswered questions. (168)

Negativity and jealousy definitely spoil human relations, enmity and vengeance brings only adverse effects, these are well handled by the novelist in his works *It Started with a Friend Request* and *You’re the Password to My Life*.

Emotional Healing Depicted in the works

There are various issues in the society like hatred, negativity, vengeance, jealousy and flaw in human relations that are dealt with in literature. In the works of Shakespeare too, jealousy, hatred have been some common themes, it is evident, such emotional discomfiture have led to some grave tragedies, as in the case of Othello and Julius Caesar. Sudeep Nagarkar,

doesn't depict such intense tragedies, yet in the present scenario the ways in which the human relations have altered and what are some simple reasons that come to rescue during the troubles are subtly handled by the novelist.

Friendship and true love are the two human relationships in the present, which could contribute the healing to the emotional trauma and conflicts. In the works of Nagarkar, friendship and love are given prime significance. In *It Started with a Friend Request*, it is evident if it wasn't for the friend of Akaash, he wouldn't have rescued from the problems which could have even ended the life of Akaash. "The only good thing was that Kritika firmly stood by him in this time of crisis like a good friend. She believed in him..." Aditya was the rescuer, despite his madness and silliness, he remained true to Akaash during his thick and thin. Even at the adverse situations, Aditya remained with Akaash.

Similar friendliness is depicted in *You're the Password to My Life*, the beautiful friendship of Virat and Kavya, gives the readers the friendship goals. Whatever might happen, having true relationship and retaining the trust is very important. Only real friends could stay true inspite of innumerable issues. If it wasn't for Kavya, Virat wouldn't have got the love of his life and other friends, his loneliness wouldn't have ended, similarly if it wasn't for Aditya and Kritika, Akaash would have faced tragic end eventually. "Virat and Kavya were inseparable and whenever they were forced to part from each other for a long period of time...both were lucky to have each other in their lives..."

Conclusion

Sudeep Nagarkar, eloquently talks about the importance of people in one's life. Solitary life offers only mental agony and emotional trauma, Tamanna's life as depicted in *It Started with a Friend Request*, is an example of such trauma. Loneliness offers only pain, whereas Akaash on the other hand is recued by the friends even from some grave situations.

In both the works, the novelist has been talking about love, friendship and enmity. Enmity and falsehood have started to dominate the minds of the people, that is the reason to go after name and fame, and in such a rush people forget the importance of true relationships in one's life. The novelist through his works throws lights on the significance of human relations and emotional bonding. Though he doesn't not touch upon serious issues, with an autobiographical touch he talks about some of the important things in the subtlest ways possible. In the rush of present life, it is only the attachment with people which could give emotional healing and Nagarkar has portrayed the significance of people in one's life realistically.

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