

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Existential Crisis in Samrat Upadhyay's *Buddha's Orphans*

A Thesis

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Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Deba Raj Paudel has prepared this thesis entitled “Existential Crisis in Samrat Upadhyay’s *Buddha’s Orphans*” under my supervision, following the format as specified by the Research Committee, Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. I therefore, forward it to Research Committee for final evaluation.

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Approval Sheet

This thesis entitled “Existential Crisis in Samrat Upadhyay’s Novel *Buddha’s Orphans*,” submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, by Mr. Deba Raj Paudel, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Table of Contents

Supervisor's Recommendation	ii
Approval Sheet	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table Contents	v
Abstract	vi
Chapter 1: Social Scenario in Upadhyay's <i>Buddha's Orphans</i>	1-10
Introduction	1
A Glimpse of the Novel	2
The Review of Literature	6
Chapter 2: The Philosophy of Existentialism	11-20
Kierkegaard and The Concept of Subjective Existence	11
Sartre and the Freedom of Choice	13
Camus and The Realization of Absurdity	18
Chapter 3: The Revelation of Existential Crisis	21-44
Existential Crisis and Discovery of Self	22
The Picture of Fragmentation	30
Chapter 4: Existential Crisis in <i>Buddha's Orphans</i>	45-46
Works Cited	

Abstract

As existent being, a man identifies with the world through his thoughts and perceptions. He is driven to seek meaning by the every complexities and contradictions of existence. The sense of lack of meaning or purpose is very apparent in twentieth century literature, philosophy and art. The thesis postulates' critical question whether life is worth living or should be voluntarily terminated. Being brought face to face with the absurd world, a person longs for answers that will clarify his position and the purpose in this universe, but being unable to find satisfactory explanations he succumbs despair. The futile existence drives a person to the brink of despair and makes himself to contemplate suicide out of sheer despondency and hopelessness. It also stresses that each human being is thrown in to world in which pain, frustration, sickness, contempt, malaise and death predominately exists. This problem has been highlighted in Albert Camus's *The Realization of Absurdity*. This issue has been highlighted in the novel *Buddha's Orphans*. Through the analysis of major characters, the study aims to disclose how anxiety in general, occupies a major place in the existential sphere of life in twentieth century. It also focuses that existential crisis reveal in minor and major characters in Upadhyay's novel.