

Tribhuvan University

Bakha's Struggle for Existence in Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable*

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by

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This thesis entitled “**Bakha’s Struggle for Existence in Mulk Raj Anand’s *Untouchable***” submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, by Mr. Jaya Prasad Rai, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

The present dissertation titled "**Bakha's Struggle for Existence in Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable***" focuses on the major character of the novel, Bakha, who is suffering amidst the problematic and frustrated conditions of his life. Bakha, the untouchable, who is a representative of the Lower class People too, undergoes harrowing experiences. Humiliation after humiliation shocks him and creates problems of recognition. 'Untouchable' refers to a dispossessed man, deprived even of the basic right to live like a human being in freedom, honor and dignity, in utter poverty and isolation. From sunrise on Bakha is forced to deal with discrimination, hatred, and hypocrisy. Wherever Bakha goes, he is rebuked, humiliated, exploited, suppressed, subjugated, and dehumanized.

The untouchables are the lowest of the low caste and they are given the job of clearing the latrines and sweeping the streets. In every moment of their lives, they encounter meaninglessness which adds suffering to their existence.

The thesis explores Bakha's endurances and problems through existentialist perspectives. Theoretical inputs from critics and writers such as Soren Kierkegaard, Frederich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Jean Paul Sartre and others reinforce my thesis. It concludes that social discrimination of any kinds, including untouchability, hinders free existence of human beings. Therefore, it is a problem of attitude that needs to be reformed or done away with.

Contents

Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	iv
Chapter One: Introduction	1-12
Mulk Raj Anand and His <i>Untouchable</i>	1
Anand's Major Works	2
Shaping of Anand's Mind	3
Critical Reviews on <i>Untouchable</i>	7
Chapter Two: Theoretical Tool	13-34
Existentialism: An Introduction	13
Evolution of Existentialism	19
Martin Heidegger and His Ideologies	23
Anand's Concept on Existentialism	32
Chapter Three : Textual Analysis	35-49
Casteism: A Cause of Bakha's Struggle for Existence	35
Bakha's Struggle for existence in <i>Untouchable</i>	38
Chapter Four: Conclusion: Discrimination Hinders the Free Existence	
	50-53
	Works Cited