

## Agrarian–Urban Dialectics and Postcolonial Suffering in Kamala Markandaya's *Nectar in a Sieve* and *A Handful of Rice*

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**Abstract:** Markandaya's novel mainly focuses on background. The novel explores how rural people struggle to survive and meet their basic needs. *Nectar in a Sieve* and *A Handful of Rice* are novels that explore the transition from rural to urban life, highlighting the challenges faced in this survey of rice, whose novel of character to explore from rural to urban, that place gives difficult to survey. This study's main problem of women, laborers, and peasants during the period of post-independence India under the socio-economic condition. Markandaya views the uneven effect as concentrating the societies' margins. Both novels depict a move from rural to urban, where now the character feels changes of a good life instead of suffering. This study highlights displacement, identity, labour and gender using the postcolonial theory throughout the study, which is used by Frantz Fanon, Homi K. Bhabha, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Chandra Talpade Mohanty. This research concentrates on the loss of their own land, the pursuit of work and the battle for survival. Markandaya's analysis of the people's living of basic economic progress by imposing the voices of basic people.

**Keywords:** Kamala Markandaya, postcolonialism, migration, industrialization, rural transformation, urban poverty, gender, subalternity.

Markandaya's fiction explores the socio-economic transformation that reshaped postcolonial India during the twentieth century. Her novels mainly concerned the dialectic tension between a tradition and modern industrialization, a tension that generates not progress but profound human suffering. This paper explores the two novels of Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve* (1954) and *A Handful of Rice* (1966), as an agrarian-urban dialectic as a regular and thematic framework development of postcolonial critiques. This study "dialectic" was used in fullest sense: not simply opposites but dynamic contrast in which each terms condition and transform the other, the rural world and urban industrial system are doesn't single side, but mutually constitution forces which regular opposition and intensified vulnerability. Industrialization does not replace the rural life but fully dismantles it, and urban diaspora doesn't rural suffering but constitutive it into new forms.

Kamala markandaya was most famous writers among Indian writing in English because of her determined interest in the lives of ordinary people navigating social and economic change. She concentrates on population that were frequently left out of officer narrative of national growth during writing a time when India was faster changing. Her novels revolve around farmers, employee, diaspora, and women, giving readers a glimpse into important observation through economic changes impact daily life.

*A Handful of Rice* and *Nectar in a Sieve* these both novel concentrate on changes. The first novel focuses on rural people whose steadiness is distressed by industrial growth. While second novel concentrate on very hardest to part to face by diaspora trying to thrive in an urban setting. During the whole novel shows the different between agrarian between civic, that pain and poor are not common. Rather, they transform as people relocate cross the transform economic atmosphere.



Rukmani and Nathan's are the main character of *Nectar in a Sieve* which are connected to the land they work. Agriculture is not a profession; it is basic of society, family and identity. However, economic pressure is mainly focussed on this novel urban order was given about by the tannery, which different employee pattern, higher living cost and duration and depth of a connection. Through the experiences of Ravi, a young man looking for chances outside of the village, *A Handful of Rice* draws attention to the urban world. Although the place he see is characterized by social separation, jobless and crowdedness his believes that migration will give best however it gives dryness his lives.

The women characters of both novels are Rukmani and Nalini are vital roles of both novels. They are support families and communities whose efforts are overloaded. Their experiences throughout the novel are darkness relationship between poverty and gender, showing how women's experiences of financial difficult was differ from others. The novels show the subtle responsibility that women bear in both rural and urban surrounding through these characters.

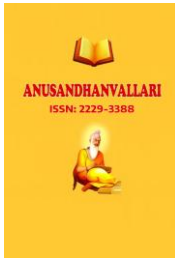
These ideas investigate through postcolonial theory authors like Spivak's discussion with subaltern voices, Mohanty's theory of gendered experiences and Bhabha's investigate of cultural negotiation. This study exposes to lived realities of markandaya's character rather than automatically applying theory. When *Nectar in a Sieve* and *A Handful of Rice* are examined, markandaya focuses not only rural but also urban area as constration. Rather she considers as correlated of inequality, poverty, insecurity and exclusion are actuality, even though the condition of suffering was very different. Moving from rural from urban that signifies a change from hardest part convert to liberty.

The arrival of the tannery to destroy the agrarian economic condition rather of reveals the unruly force: "The tannery brought noise and strangers into our quiet lives" (p. 66). Economic level is raised and traditional following are ruined "the young men went to the tannery, leaving the fields untended" (p. 68) Rukmani notes that "We could not afford what we once had" (p. 74), represent how industrial capitalism creates economic imbalance to create among the rural people. Fanon concept of postcolonial inequality is openly industrialization benefits are going to some community group while doesn't go to the rural people.

Economic lack is the central character of Ravi. The contraction of urban poverty is sharply rendered: "In the city, a man could starve even while surrounded by food" (p. 47). Unlike rural scarcity is socially produced through access and inequality. Employment is precarious "Work came and went, but hunger remained" (p. 89) and upward mobility is largely illusory: "Money slipped through his fingers as quickly as he earned it" (p. 92). Fanon's analysis of class stratification in postcolonial societies is directly relevant: the urban economy reproduces inequality rather than deaden it.

Ravi's main issue is being poor. He says that in the city where there is plenty of food a person can still go hungry. "In the city, a man could starve even while surrounded by food" (p. 47). This shows how bad urban poverty is. In cities people are poor not because there is not food but because they can't access it. Ravi also talks about how hard it's to find stable work. He says, "Work came and went but hunger remained"(p. 92). This means that even when he got a job it didn't long and he still went hungry. The ideas of Fanon about classes in countries that were colonized are relevant here. The city economy makes inequality worse it does not make it better. Poverty and inequality are still problems in urban areas. Ravi's story shows that urban poverty is an issue. It is caused by factors, including lack of access, to resources and jobs. The urban economy does not provide opportunities for people to move up the social ladder. As a result many people remain poor.

This paper has critiques that Kamala Markandaya's *Nectar in a Sieve* and *A Handful of Rice* constitute a sustained and theoretically sophisticated critique of postcolonial development as it was experienced by those whom it was supposed to benefit. Through the framework of agrarian-urban dialectics, Markandaya reveals that the movement



from rural to urban life is not a progression toward stability but a continuous process of transformation in which suffering is redistributed rather than resolved.

Kamala Markandaya's *Nectar in a Sieve* and *A Handful of Rice* look at the difference between urban and rural life. Markandaya explain these both novels are moving from the country to the city life which is not constant life. It not gives solution from moving from one place to another. These four author critics through postcolonial perspective way to Fanon, Bhabha, Spivak and Mohanty whose ideas gives easy to understand of this issue.

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