A Study of Globalization's Impact in Aravind Adiga's *Last Man in Tower*

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Abstract

This study looks at how the different effects of globalization show up in Aravind Adiga's novel *Last Man in Tower*. The story, which takes place in buildings that are changing quickly in Mumbai, is about the differences between old values and the new values that come from global capitalism. Adiga shows how urban redevelopment and economic change can cause people to suffer by telling the story of Yogesh Murthy, a former schoolteacher who is fighting against a developer's buyout. This study looks at how globalization makes it seem like everything is fine, but in reality, it breaks up groups, hurts the weakest, and makes people lose their morals. The researcher uses a postcolonial and socioeconomic lens to look at how Adiga rejects the unfair distribution of power and wealth in a world where money is becoming more important than people. Some of the moral and emotional issues that globalization brings to modern India are also shown in this select novel.

Keywords: Globalization, money, socioeconomic, effects, valueless people

Background of the Study

Globalization is a big part of how Indian society is changing right now. It has an effect on both the business and the culture and way of life in cities. India's towns, infrastructure, and foreign investment all grew very quickly after policies were loosened up in the early 1990s. Mumbai and other Indian cities like it are now showing two sides of these changes, new possibilities and inequality. When foreign money meets local people, disagreements can arise over custom vs. modern life, what is right vs. what people want, and what is good for each person vs. what is good for everyone. Because of how quickly things change in society, stories now include certain parts that show how these changes affect people. In *Last Man in Tower,* Aravind Adiga writes an interesting story about these kinds of events. Adiga shows how tense things are in society by telling the story of a living community that might be turned into a business. The writer says that the good things about globalization, like growth, revitalizing cities, and more social progress, often come at the cost of losing important relationships, a shared sense of what is right and wrong, and fairness. So, with this background, this research paper, is looked at in terms of how globalization has changed Indian cities. The study aims to show the sociopolitical themes in Adiga's select work that show how literature can help one to understand how people are affected by changes in the world economy by looking at the characters' personalities, problems, and conflicts.

Introduction

Indian cities have changed a lot in terms of culture, society, and the economy because of globalization. The fast rise of global capital, cutting-edge technology, and real estate development today has brought both
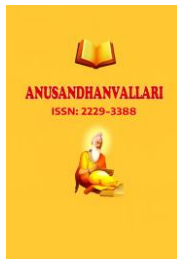
benefits and problems. People who live in Mumbai may have to move because of these changes, deal with moral problems, and see their traditional communities fall apart. Literature has become an important way to look at and learn about the effects of these changes now that they are happening. People like Aravind Adiga's work, because it pays close attention to social problems. In *Last Man in Tower*, he looks at these situations. The novel is mostly about a group of middle-class apartments that developers want to build on because they can make a lot of money from them. Masterji was still against it, even though most families agreed with the plan and tried to move up. People are inspired by how he sticks to his views, even though the world around him is becoming more focused on greed, common trends, and corporate power. Critics look at the work to see if it explains how globalization changes more than just the sale of land. They want to know how it changes people's behaviour, morals, and community values. *Last Man in Tower* shines a light on one person's fight against big goals set by the market, which makes people wonder how much growth really costs in India.

Objective

The main intention of this study is to look at how Aravind Adiga's *Last Man in Tower* looks at how globalization has changed Mumbai's society and economy. People have problems and feelings when they see real estate development and the way it is affected by foreign capital. This is what we are looking into. It also looks at how the author shows how the community's shared values are lost. This study also looks at the literary techniques the author uses to criticize the unfair and hurtful effects of modern economic changes in a country that is becoming more globalized very quickly.

Research Methodology

Postcolonial and sociocultural literary criticism are used in this study to do a thorough study of texts. A close reading of Aravind Adiga's *Last Man in Tower* is used to look at how globalization changes the characters' thoughts and actions, as well as the people in their community. The study looks at the story's plot, main themes, and how the author talks about how cities change and the power of business in modern India.

Literary Review

When India's economy opened up in the 1990s, there was a lot more talk about globalization in Indian English writing. Studies have shown that new social choices, city growth, and the amount of money in the world all have a big effect on people's lives. People often read Adiga's novel *Last Man in Tower* because it shows how desire and morals can clash in a city that is always changing. Some people who don't like Adiga see him as a voice for the Indian middle class after liberalization. V. Bala Subrahmanyam says that *Last Man in Tower* shows how people treat human space like a product and how people who don't agree with city growth aren't given as much attention. This novel doesn't like how the market can change places and long-lasting relationships between people. This is also what Aijaz Ahmad (1992) says that globalization can make social class differences worse and cause uneven growth in postcolonial countries.

In addition, Makarand Paranjape has looked into how the difficulties of globalization can both hurt and help India's middle class. This is summed up in *Last Man in Tower* by the chaos between the residents of Vishram Society's dreams and Masterji's strong stand against corruption, who is seen as a threat. In her review from 2011, Nilanjana Roy says that the novel powerfully shows how the desire to join the wealthier class can lead someone astray. Some reviewers, like Priya Joshi, talk about how Indian fiction shows the everyday lives of
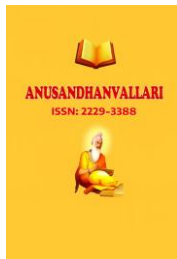
people in cities who are dealing with change. So, Adiga's use of urban realism is similar to that of Vikram Chandra and Rohinton Mistry. They both see Mumbai as living on its own and changing with the times.

Theorists like Arjun Appadurai and Saskia Sassen also come up with useful ways to look at how global trends affect people and places. Using these ideas helps one to figure out how the community has changed from being full of nice people to people who trade real estate. People have to make decisions about where they fit, what's trendy, and what's right versus wrong. These are all important issues in the larger debate about globalization. Some might say that Adiga's novels are mostly about making clear moral choices, but most experts agree that they do a good job of showing how India's fast-paced urban changes affect people's minds and social lives. People's shared views are beginning to break apart, just like the Vishram Society. This is because of market ideas, which have become more important as cities have been hit by economic crises and gentrification. Studies in this field show that *Last Man in the Tower* is an important novel for showing how globalization affects people in India.

Problem of the Study

Aravind Adiga uses *Last Man in Tower* to show how globalization changes modern Indian society by focusing on the changes and fights caused by Mumbai's rapid urbanization and the rise of capitalism. The story takes place in Vishram Society, a small cooperative housing society that becomes a place where modern world forces clash with the neighbourhood's traditions and sense of unity. It has many stories that talk about the most common problems Indians in cities have, when they try to stay human while the city changes around them.

In India, globalization is often praised for its good effects, but it also changes social norms and morals in big ways. When people try to get rich and live in the modern world, they push communities apart and people start to lose trust in each other. The suggestion made by Dharmen Shah is seen as a way to improve life by members of Vishram Society. Adiga, on the other hand, shows how 'progress' is bad by showing how it drives people apart. Some people in the novel *Last Man in Tower* discover that having money can make things easier, but it can also make things more dangerous. The main idea that is at the heart of the novel is "Money makes everything possible… but it also makes everything fragile" (Adiga, 2011, p. 78).

Masterji stands for the thoughts and feelings of people who don't agree with the rebuilding. Not just about space, but also about protecting human connections and dignity from the power of the market. One can think Masterji's stand is very dramatic, showing that he stands alone when other people give up on community values. He says, "When you give up your home, you give up your past, your memories… your soul" (Adiga, 2011, p. 136). In this sentence, it is said that the novel shows how globalization affects both money and human relationships.

Adiga shows how societies can change in bigger ways by showing how the people in town change. Vishram Society used to be a peaceful place, but now desire and outside pressure have broken down the peace. One can trace many more instances from the novel how globalization breaks up groups and makes people more distant and angrier as a result. A character says "In Mumbai, everyone's a competitor-even your neighbours" (Adiga, 2011, p. 102). This makes people less likely to trust others and more likely to put their own needs ahead of group goals.

In *Last Man in Tower*, the author shows how globalization can make society less fair or make it more unequal. Dharmen Shah puts pressure on people in Indian villages by using economic tools, political power, and the law. He does this to show how people can be vulnerable to global businesses. A common theme in studies of globalization is that the law tends to favour companies over ensure justice. The developer's use of legal flaws to get what they want shows this. Challengers have a lot of problems, which are shown by his ongoing work to fix
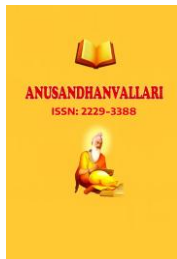
the system. Adiga says, "The system is made to serve the rich, and the poor are left to their own devices" (Adiga, 2011, p. 145). The novel also talks about how the media helps to make these problems worse. When Masterji wants to tell the story of his battle, the media focus on making headlines instead of giving him real support because sharing information has become a commodity. This fits with other ideas in postcolonial theory, which say that people who don't agree with the main economic ideas are often ignored by the main media (Chomsky, 1997).

Some of the most important parts of *Last Man in Tower* are the major characters and the details of the setting. Mumbai is known as India's 'financial capital'. This shows that globalization has mixed effects, with some people benefiting from opportunities and others suffering from unfair treatment. Mumbai's history is kept alive by the Vishram Society, but new buildings are slowly squeezing out the traditions of the city. The problem Masterji is having by himself is a sign of how global and economic forces are threatening local and established ways of life.

The different types of 'scapes' that Arjun Appadurai talks about-ethno scapes, finance scapes, mediascapes, ideo scapes, and technoscapes-help to explain the many global and complicated changes that Adiga talks about in his work .Some of the things that people in Vishram Society deal with come from different places, such as foreign investments (financescape), news and information from the media (mediascape), and ideas about how to fit in with the times (ideoscape). A big fear in the novel is how globalization changes people's minds. He also further talks about how growth can force some people to leave their homes, their cultures, or both. To put in his own words, "To lose your home is to lose your place in the world, a wound that no money can heal" (Adiga, 2011, p. 158).

Last Man in Tower makes one to think again about what progress and growth really mean. It questions the idea that more economic growth always leads to a better society, since it can make things worse for some people and hurt their sense of worth. Because the novel is so focused on ethics, it makes people think about ways to grow that care more about community, justice, and the earth than just making money.

Conclusion

Aravind Adiga's *Last Man in Tower* brings a close look at how globalization changes city life and business in India and how those changes affect Indian society as a whole. The novel shows the problems and conflicts that happen in a society that puts economic growth first through Vishram Society. Masterji and his family are shown to be facing loneliness because globalization can make people lose their sense of community and their traditional values. At its core, the novel makes the case for a re-evaluation of development strategies that focus on more than just economic gains. These strategies should also include respect, justice, and better living conditions for everyone. This level in the novel shows the bad things about globalization and asks everyone to be nicer to each other going forward.

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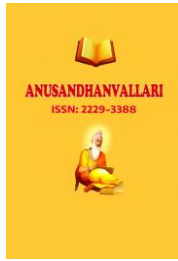
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