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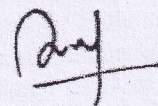
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Reading of Vikas Swarup's 'The Accidental Apprentice' in the light of Socio-Cultural Problems in India


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Reading of Vikas Swarup's 'The Accidental Apprentice' in the light of Socio-Cultural Problems in India

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Abstract

In modern scholarly writers think about, a subject is the central theme of content treats. The foremost common understanding of the subject is an idea or point that's central to a story. Acclaimed author Vikas Swarup implies the new narrative techniques of the seven tests to throw light on some of India's uncommon social and contemporary problems, whereas never losing locate of the character at the center of the story. The story interwoven around a shop assistant, Sapna Sinha, who is offered to become CEO of a big company in the event that she can pass an arrangement of seven tests. The theme of struggle of existence is the central feature of the thematic concerns in the novel. Also, Swarup emphasizes on many other arguable issues pertaining to the post modern Indian society through his novel, The Accidental Apprentice. It is obvious that Swarup's critical thematic plea, his strong stresses on the complexities of the human nature and his fantastic delineation, seem to have added massively to the achievement of this novel, thus signifying his brilliance as one of the prominent writers of post modern India.

Keywords: Theme, Survival, Adaptation, Existence, Society.

Vikas Swarup is one of the well-known novelists in post modern India along with Arvind Adiga, has earned many distinguish honors for his creativity, tendency and for his collective devotion. He experiments first time in this present context to use women characters with full of huge courage. He has known the social - cultural problems of Indian women. As a novelist Vikas Swarup is fractional to stories of barely credible bonus, and for sound cause. In 2005, when Swarup was serving as an Indian diplomat in Indian Foreign Service, his first novel 'Q&A' was appeared. 'Q&A' is the story of a young slum-orphan who wins a quiz show. It was well-received but appeared, after six months, to have accomplished its turn under the limelight. Then it was modified for the movie and released as Slumdog Millionaire in 2008.

Swarup shows in the novel to describe the condition of the real life of especially the woman at the control of the current issues in the post modern Indian society. He said that, "I was inspired by the woman of India." (Sahara Times, 2013)

He also acknowledged that, "I like creating character who are slightly larger than life and I infuse my narrative with plenty of drama to move the story forward in an engaging way" (Sahara Times, 2013)
Therefore, Swarup's appropriate thematic views seem to have complex with his experiment approach and passionate wisdom of inspection in establishing his reputation as one of the rising writers of Indian literature in English.



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The present paper intends to examine the vital themes that Vikas Swarup attempts to express through his much provocative adventures work, *The Accidental Apprentice*. This novel appeared in 2013, provides a distressing and realistic account of continuous efforts of women for the status of her identity in the society. Through the protagonist Vikas Swarup tries to describe what women should take the action for their freedom and how patriarchal culture is able to become cognizant in relation to them. Sapna Sinha is the central character in the novel that she is an electronics salesgirl, honest at her job but destiny plays another move to never get her full potential. Then a chance mealtime at near the temple, she meets with Vinay Mohan Acharya, a big business tycoon offers her as a CEO in his group of companies. The novel starts with first sentence by Sapna. In the prologue she said,

“In life you never get what you deserve: you get what you negotiate.” (AA, p.1)

There are seven life tests she has to pass for the CEO, though, and she is completely unaware about the examination. Sapna is unwilling to assign to the unpredictable challenges, but when her family's misery getting worse day by day and seems in danger, she accepts the challenge and prepare for the test. Moving through a moral ground where the destiny of good and bad turns and regroups like threatening darkness, the accidental apprentice is enforced to question her self identity and protect her relatives. How far can ethics be hard-pressed when a sound opportunity is provocatively close up? Anuja Chauhan stated that, “The book evokes the Delhi colony lifestyle rather well, as also all the aspirations and frustrations of lower middle-class India.” (India Today reviews).

Sapna's tests “from the textbook of life” examine her personality and at the end the accidental apprentice becomes a CEO. The preface of the plot is propelled by the daily TV shows. Sapna works in an electronics shop as a salesgirl in market center Delhi. She dislikes her profession, but she is striving and strong-minded to achieve something, because she comes to know that her family's financial fate is reliant on the money she fetches in. One day, as she leaves the shop for her lunch break and goes to the temple for worship of goddess Durga, she is encountered by an aged man, Vinay Mohan Acharya, who holds to be the Chief Executive Officer of one of famous group of companies. He asserts her he is searching for someone to takeover on his business domain, and has committed it should be her. But in order to become the successor of his business empire, Sapna must pass undecided seven life tests. *The Accidental Apprentice* has shown a mass of characters that are familiar from our day to day life. The anxious old mother, Neha, the beautiful younger sister, the old-fashioned strange Aunt, the next door beloved and last but not the least the business brother who be reminiscent of the Tata's and Birla's. Looking for greener fields, Sapna, the central character of the novel almost similar to blessed messenger of paradise, works hard with untiring daring in order to protect her family from the despair. Swapna Krishna said that,

“The *Accidental Apprentice* reads like a very dark comedy of errors, full of the idiosyncrasies and contradictions of modern India.” (November 4, 2016)

The significance of survival and adaptation shows to have been the Swarup's major thematic interest in the present novel. Swarup examines the theme of survival and adaptation mainly through the central character of Sapna. It is a well recognized fact that adaptation is part of endurance. We live in a speedily moving culture and almost nothing remains the constant as time passes by. Man existence in such a rapid moving culture is not a simple job because we should acquire the essential competence to regulate ourselves to the varying circumstances in the society. Towards the end of the story, Sapna possesses the skills to progress to the lead with the shifting ring of life.

One more noteworthy aspect of Swarup's thematic interests in the present novel is the susceptibility and extreme anxiety of the people who lives in hectic life with extremely poverty not just in the rural areas but in the urban areas as well. He also looks into the unfavorable effect of the pass over of family responsibilities on the blossoming youthful life in concern to the irrational activities of the post modern society. Furthermore,



Swarup emphasizes on several other burning issues which affect the post modern Indian society like the scam of kidney rackets, dishonest political personalities, family problems and circumstances, the issue of child labour, enthusiast social activist, dramas of reality shows, arrogant movie stars, undercover news journalists, business enmity and especially the issues of fundamentalist ignorant villagers in the framework of Khap Panchayats. Sapna presents her journey through the CEO training involvement in the life of the ordinary girl. As far as the novel is concerned, Swarup also discusses the natural kindness of people and how such estimable distinctiveness can become a blessing to the humanity. In addition, Swarup shows to be worried with the cultural existence of present India and attracted by the prettiness of human nature in many illustrations in the novel.

As a result, the thematic demand of the novel, *The Accidental Apprentice* shows very fundamental, tender and realistic. It is apparent that more or less every theme expressed through the narrative has a special significance not only to the post modern Indian society but also to the whole humankind at large. Swarup's keen intellect of observation and his critical fixation with the ordinary man become important in his expertly characterization, colorful descriptions of the settings and the systematic planning of a strong plot construction which is highly authentic. Also, the novelist's amazing skill in the adoption of efficient narrative techniques looks to have been enormously helpful in ornamental prosperity of the thematic appeal of the novel. Hence, it is obvious that the distinguished work of fiction, *The Accidental Apprentice* remains one more feather in the cap of Vikas Swarup. Thus the group of Indian English literature, Swarup emerges as one of the leading Indo-English writers of the post modern India. Therefore, this research paper will be helpful for all those who want to analyze Vikas Swarup's, *Accidental Apprentice* not only for scholarly purposes but for intellectual amusement as well.

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