

## A RATIONALE QUEST OF RAMCHAND IN RUPA BAJWA'S THE SARI SHOP

---

L. Nalini\*  
Dr. B. Rajesh\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*This paper is an attempt to probe into the harsh realities of mankind in surviving on earth and how class differences affect a man's life and make his survival even more difficult. The Sari Shop is not the story of an isolated person but it appears to be the story of every independent in our Society. Bajwa points out not only to exhibit an image but also to represent the truth of society. The novel starts with the description of a working class that revolves around a plutocratic society. Bajwa presents the life of an ordinary salesman as well as at work and home They conflict to make both ends meet in life.*

**Keywords:** *Struggle, Reality, Ram Chand, Capitalist, Persuasion.*

---

### Introduction

The Sari Shop is a Compact Psychological study of a Sari-Walla in Amritsar. It focuses on the contrasts between his life and

- what his father had hoped for him;
- the customers of the Sari Shop.
- his co-workers.
- the suffering wife of this co-worker.

These drive him to a climax. The novel does not end in theatrical tragedy. The novel is entirely contemporary in its setting and focused in its concerns. No resources are made to Amritsar's tragic history under the British Raj, but perhaps the author assumes that the reader cannot be unfamiliar of the wider context of the novel.

The Sari Shop' provides a pleasant rationale study of the protagonist Ramchand. The word psychology literally means "study of the soul". Thus, psychology is The Study of Mind and Behaviour. It Includes the Study of Conscious and Unconscious Phenomena, Including Feelings and Thoughts. Psychology has the goal of understanding individuals. The field deals with the concepts of perception, cognition, emotion, motivation, brain functioning and behaviour. In the novel, Ramchand is a man of suffering. The desire of the common man remains unfulfilled. He is exploited by the upper class as well as by his own people. He only used to live in the society of imagination. But the reality of life is beyond his imagination. In any literary work whether it is fiction or other the whole story moves around the characters as they represent the real picture of life. These are the characters for the sake of whom we can represent the theme of the novel to the common people. Thus, through a particular character of the novel, we can represent desires as well as difficulties of common people that they face in their lives. It also helps to depict the social structure of the society. It explores the unfulfilled desires of Ramchand, the protagonist in the novel and his exploitation. The topic deals with corrupting influences, wish fulfilment and the struggle for life. Emotions of common people and their helplessness. Here in the topic, the difficulties of the common man are represented. Through the tone of the protagonist, we try to understand the empty, monotonous existence of a lower-middle-class person. A common man is exploited not only by the upper class but also by his people of the same class. The law exists for the rich while the poor accept injustice.

---

\* Ph. D. Research Scholar, Department of Translation, Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India.

\*\* Associate Professor, Department of Translation, Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India.

At the Sari Shop, he is exposed to women from wealthy families and is inspired to study English, spending his meager earnings on books. One day one of his colleagues does not come to work and Ram Chand is sent to find out why. He goes to the address in a squalid part of the city and finds his colleague's wife in a drunken stupor. This wife was also an Orphan but her experiences had scarred her badly and having discovered her husband's liquor, she had become an alcoholic. Ram Chand was moved to try and help her and almost lost his job and his sanity in the process. It exposes the corrupting influence of wealth and the corrosive effects of poverty that continue in parts of India today.

There is a big gap between the life he has spent and the life his father had hoped for him. Ramchand's father was aware of the importance of education. So that's why his father wanted him to be admitted to an English medium school. His father hoped for a better life for Ramchand. So that he can lead a prosperous life as an educated person. But soon things went wrong. His parents died in an accident and he had to spend the life of an orphan boy. He was withdrawn from school. He was forced to work in a sari shop when he was about 15 years old. Till the age of 26, Ramchand was working in the same place as an assistant. He was not an educated person rather he was an illiterate person. Thus, his life was totally different from what his father had hoped for him.

The colour of the dresses is vividly described e.g., "bottle green". Kamla is portrayed as a self-adjusting soul even with the possession of 'her 2 frocks' of red and blue colour who never complains. Rupa Bajwa's the sari shop portrays the life of another protagonist Kamla, who becomes the victim of a manipulative society because of their deprived child. Soon you will also devour me". Her misfortune has begun when she got married her identity is now neglected because of her husband's ill-treatment and beat her up every day after drinking. Kamla is a victim of many emotional, misshapes, whether it is domestic violence, sexual assault, penury or low social strata. the Indian society which she is a part blindly blames and scolds her as not a good wife. "a woman should know her place. Maybe she has had difficulties or problems, but it is a woman's duty, after all, to take care of her husband and his home first, and later think about herself."

Kamla had started out on her new marital life in the same way that all the girls she knew of did. Chander did not have much money and had long working hours. He went to the cloth factory where he worked early every morning and came back late at night. Kamla becomes an economical housewife. She'd cook dinner and start to wait for Chander. He'd stagger in, drunk, after midnight sometimes. And then Kamla got pregnant, in the third month of her pregnancy, Kamla had a miscarriage. Kamla was admitted and discharged from the hospital on the same day. Kamla stared at his impassive face in horror and disbelief.

Outside the law for demanding her husband's wages. She is drunk, arrested, raped then sexually assaulted by the police using a lathi stick. In a different incident, Chander's wife Kamala threw a sharp object at another of the rich family heads, and Ravinder Kapoor himself came out. The time reaction is catastrophic. The author depicts Kamla as a compromising woman. Kamla wore both the frock by turns-one day the pink and the red and blue checks the next day. She personally liked the red and the blue check better, even though the lace of the pink one always made her feel grand, like all those girls who lived in big houses and went out in cars and bought those chocolates in purple wrappers (tss 141). Kamla was to do all her chores on her own; her mother washed her brother's clothes and made tea for him but she expected Kamla to wash her own clothes. This situation showcases the real picture of Indian mothers and Indian society. 'Girl must learn household work, and the sooner they started, the better it was (tss 141). This is one issue where mothers never allow their daughters to be equal to boys.

She is drunk, arrested, raped then sexually assaulted by the police using a Lathi Stick. In a different incident, Chander's wife Kamala threw a sharp object at another of the rich family heads, Ravind Kapoor. Ram Chand needs the 'tuition' that the rich boys are getting. He also deserves it yet Ram Chand is making evolution.

Here Rupa Bajwa makes her debut with a touching story set in Amritsar. It is a quintessential Indian story, but one that diverges from the usual empirical woe to the stories of the Indian Middle class. Regarding the protagonist-a sari shop assistant, his eyes paint a miniature picture of 'the other India'. Thus, the story exposes the corrupting influence of wealth and the bad effects of poverty that continue in parts of India today. There is a big gap between expectation and reality. A common man can only expect things to have happened. But they may or may not be so. A Common Man has to struggle for his desire which always remains unfulfilled. Desires are highly affected by the social structure of the economy. An economically weak person can neither get the education to promote himself nor can he get a reputation in society. He can only expect to have such kind of life but in reality, cannot have.

### Review of Literature

Balwinder Kaur's paper "Psycho-Analysis of Ramchand in The Sari Shop" explores class distinction and their unfulfilled desire. Where the commoners are not only exploited by the rich but also victimized by the same class. The author highlights that the law exists for the rich while the poor accept injustices.

Smita Devi's analysis of Rupa Bajwa's, The Sari Shop gives insight into the life of Ramchand the protagonist and how he landed up becoming working in Sari Shop and how he was deprived by his uncle to pursue his father's dream. Next, it talks about Kamala, who was raped and bitterly tortured by her husband. The paper also uncovers the snobbery and hypocrisy of the upper English-speaking class of people and their attitude to people of lower status. The submissiveness of women is also touched on in the paper through the character of Kamala.

Jaspal Singh, Aravind Khanna, and Parveen Kaur Khanna's paper the idea of false sisterhood: The Post-feminist Echoes reveals how the two worlds of glaring inequalities do exist in Indian society where the women of upper-class society take the lower class as a cloud of dust on their feet. However, the paper investigates the fact that even in elite strata of society, the power of discussion is only controlled by males and elite women are only domestic maids. The major focus of the paper throws light on the world of elite women.

Sebastain Subhi's work "The Yarns of Urban India: Women in Rupa Bajwa's, The Sari Shop" covers the whole classes of women present in the novel; rich, middle class to the poor, giving a clear picture of contemporary, Indian women. Though India seemed to be a patrician-dominated society, upper-class women are free from certain norms of the olden past, but the author also paints distinctly through the character Kamala how the lower class does stick to the tradition.

Sahgal Tara's "Review of Rupa Bajwa's Novel on the complex reality of Urban India 'The Sari Shop'" talks about the protagonist who has come through constant injustices. His uncle has overtaken his properties that belonged to his parents. He was being used by the rich Rina Kapoor and he struggles to learn English through the little saved wage he gets from his work.

The class stratification and its impacts are clearly visible, where the poor are being exploited by the rich to the extent they can. Chandar was one of the victims of the industrial revolution, He was working in the factory owned by Gupta and Kapoor families. As the factory incurred loss, it had to undergo a shutdown depriving two months' wage for all the workers in order to revive the loss.

### Conclusion

Thus, the novel The Sari Shop has several incidences that have widened the gap between the rich and poor through the protagonist's empty and monotonous life in Sewak Sari Sop. Bajwa reflects the issue of exploitation of the poor. She also talks about women's; identity crises. the wives of rich industrialists with their empty lives, and the educated class with their snobbish intellectualism, is skilfully satirized by Rupa Bajwa.

### References

1. Bajwa, Rupa. The sari shops. New Delhi: Penguin, 2004. Print.
2. Pandey, Sanjay Prasad. "The Crisis of Human Existence: A study of Rupa Bajwa's The sari shop. Arts Family, Vol. 3 No. 1, 2015.
3. Kaur, Balcoinder. "Psycho-Analysis of Ram Chand in the sari shop" Vol. No.1., The Achievers Journal, 2015.
4. Pathak, Vandana. The Marginalized Psyche in Rupa Bajwa's. International Journal for Linguistics and Literature.
5. Jaspal Singh, Arvind Khanna, Parveen Kaur Khanna. "The idea of false sisterhood: The post-feminist echoes." International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development (2015): 379-381, English. Print.
6. Kaur, Balwinder. "Psychoanalysis of Ramchand in The Sari Shop." the Achievers Journal. Web. < <http://www.theachieversjournal.com>>.

