

## **THE PORTRAYAL OF COMMON MAN'S SUFFERING IN SUCH A LONG JOURNEY BY ROHINTON MISTRY**

**T. Jackuline Suganthi**

*Assistant Professor*

*St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science (A), Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India*

**A.Jasmine Rani**

*M. Phil. Scholar*

*St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science (A), Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India*

### **Abstract**

*Rohinton Mistry is an Indian-Born Canadian writer. All his works talk about the sufferings of the common people in the society. His novels will be always attractive and unique. He showed the real feelings and also the emotions of the protagonist in the novel. As an immigrant people they were not collaborated with other people in some places. Mistry introduced Gustad Noble, the protagonist who is a common man in the novel. He tries to find his own identity among his family members and also in the country during 1970s in India. Gustad Noble works in a Parsi Bank with normal salary. As a common man of a society he too had some of the dreams in his life and especially his son's higher study. But it was shattered when once he neglected it. On the other side he was troubled and suffered a lot due to his old friend Jimmy. Due to the political status of the society, he was compelled to do the forgery for the country by indirectly. His mind is rounded by his family, neighbours, work place and about the illegal work done by him. The political happening makes the common man to suffer a lot which is reflected through the character Gustad.*

**Keywords:** *Sufferings, Immigrant, Identity and emotions.*

Rohinton Mistry's *Such a Long Journey* talks about the traditional life of the parsi community and how these people are emerged out with the freedom. It shows the different culture of parsi people and also the different way of living in the Indian society. Though these parsis are very small in number they fights for their rights in all the places. They gets experienced the ethnic anxiety, they also feels uncomforness, identity crisis and dominated by the higher community of Hindu culture. All the novels of Mistry represent the life of parsi community. Once they entered into new country they lose their lifestyles and culture.

The protagonist is shown in the opening scene who offers his prayer towards his God. He is a God fearing man, who follows all the rules and regulations which is mentioned in his scriptures. He used to glorify the past by nourishing in dreams, musing and anecdoting. He works in a parsi Bank with good salary which is limited for him to run his family though he was satisfied with all the thing, at one place he feels that's his community is totally marginalized in the society. Gustad and his family, in their worries and their struggles against the consequences of irrational legislation, become the embodiment of the average middle-class Indian family constantly battling to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

In *Such A Long Journey*, Mistry had shown the different kinds of human relationship. He mainly focused on

the friendship in Gustad's relation with Tehmul, Dinshawji, Jimmy Billimoria, Ghulam Mohammad and so on. This reciprocates the true love and feelings of Gustad. The novel revolves around the protagonist Gustad Noble who struggles to maintain his family with his wife and three sweet childrens. At one point he was found with commotion because of his eldest son Sohrab who is not willing to do Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and on the other side we find his daughter Roshan fell sick till the novel gets an end. A new problem arrives through his friend Jimmy Billimoria, who is the old friend of Gustad Noble. Through him his whole life gets changed. We can see how the politics destroys the life of normal person.

Gustad has got all the trust over his son Sohrab, who is a talented boy in the school and also in the house. The hope makes Gustad to have more of dream over his son. Though he got more of dreams, it was shattered when once he heard a words from his son that he does not have any interest over this IIT instead he would like to concentrate on Arts. Gustad got anger and he was very harsh towards his son. Their breaks a great fight and conversation between father and son at the dinner table. All the dinner sohrab states that: "It's not suddenly. I'm sick and tired of IIT, IIT, IIT all the time. I'm not interested in it, I'm not a jolly good fellow about it, and I'm not going there.

Gustad sighed..... Fool yourself if you want to. I'm not going to IIT anyway" (48).

On the other side Gustad's problem started when once he got letter from his old friend Jimmy Billimoria. Gustad is in confusion whether to write reply letter for his friend. Now he is in dilemma to proceed with the things through Jimmy Billimoria the political interruption takes place in the life of Gustad. The letter is arrived from New Delhi. Gustad learns all the truth from Jimmy Billimoria about the amount and also the unhappiness life in Delhi. Jimmy said he was actually appointed as a secret officer for the Prime Minister to do the government work. He got Ten lakh rupees that were allocated apparently for the guerrillas in Bangladesh is still unaccounted for Jimmy has been targeted in an attempt to rescue the amount.

In *Such a Long Journey*, Mistry had shown the different kinds of human relationship. He mainly focused on the friendship in Gustad's relation with Tehmul, Dinshawji, Jimmy Billimoria, Ghulam Mohammad and so on. This reciprocates the true love and feelings of Gustad. Mistry had viewed the whole city of Bombay where he found there

is no proper culture, tradition and also the political. He finds only ugliness miserable and filth in the city. He mentions all the people involved in government are always greedy, money minded, corruption based people

The main motive of journey sets the tone of the novel from the beginning of the novel itself as shown with three epigraphs. One is of the diasporic writing where the historical journey to the uphill where it denotes last life of the two people. Dinshawji's last funeral and Gustad's visit to Delhi to meet Jimmy. The other journeys are Gustad's meeting with his old friend Malcolm Saldanha in the Crawford Market and other small trips done by Gustad.

### References

1. Cohen, Robin. *Global Diasporas: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge, 2008. Print.
2. Dodiya, Jaydipsinh. *Parsi English Novel*. New Delhi: Sarup & Sons, 2006. Print.
3. Mistry, Rohinton. *Such a Long Journey*, London: Faber and Faber, 1991.