

Roy's Mission to Vocalize the Subalterns in *The Ministers of Utmost Happiness*

Dr. Jukkalkar Syed Imtiaz
Asstt. Professor
Department of English
Shri Shivaji Sci. & Arts College,
CHIKHLI Dist. Buldana (MS)
Email- imtiazzukkalkar@gmail.com.
Mobile: 09860873841

Abstract:

The subalterns are the groups of people who are socially, economically and politically marginalized from main stream. Even after seventy years of independence, Indian mainstream society denied to give a respectable place to the subalterns. Besides the Muslim and the Dalit minorities, Roy focuses on the Kashmiries, the Transgender and the Left in her second fiction, *The Ministers of Utmost Happiness*. My endeavour in this paper is to bring out the ugly realities imbedded in the fiction in question about the life of the Indian subalterns and the injustices inflicted on them by the state as hegemonic force and the members of the main stream society. The injustices are committed by the oppressive power structures and their voices are either silenced by the mainstream media or kept hidden by the state. The mission of the novelist in this novel is to vocalize the subalterns of Indian society.

(Key Words: subaltern, marginalized, hegemony, power structure)

Introduction:

One who is familiar with the nonfictions of Roy understands well what goes into making the novel a politically committed fiction to open the eyes of the people who are leading their life under the impression that we Indians are the citizens of a just society. The characters in the novel are the members of marginalized sections of Indian society. There are two separate worlds created by the novelist which intersect with each other in the novel. The first is dominated by a Muslim *hijra*, named Aftab by his parents. The central figure of the other world is Tilottama, a Malayali young woman, an architect by profession in whom we hear biographical echoes of the novelist herself, a Kashmiri separatist, Musa, who after joining the underground Kashmiri freedom movement was called as Commander Gulrez, loved Tilottima passionately, Biplab Dasgupta, an officer in Intelligence Bureau of government of India and Nagaraj Hariharan, a handsome young man who belongs to one of the family of high bureaucrats.