



The Issues of Displaced People in Amitav Ghosh's '*The Hungry Tide*'

Mr. Pradeep Kumar
Research Scholar, Dept. of English
KNIPSS Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Vijay Pratap Singh
Professor and Head, Dept. of English
KNIPSS Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Abstract:-

Amitav Ghosh is referred to be a post-colonial writer because of the strong topic of displacement in his works. "The Hungry Tide" is no exception, it illustrates the struggles faced by displaced people as well as their sense of dislocation and rootlessness themes that have been used in writing. This article will attempt to investigate the dislocated, marginalized People their issues, and the critical viewpoints of displaced individuals.

Keywords: Dislocation, Marginalized People, Sense of Belonging, Quest for Identity

Introduction:-

It is obvious that displaced people had to struggle and endure great hardships to find their unique identities. A slaughter between the police and refugees occurred because they decided to fight and resist the command. Through Piyali and Fokir, the author depicts the present in the concurrent storyline. Through Piyali and Fokir, the sensation of displacement is also brought to light. Piyali, Fokir, and Kanai travelled to another town in search of the dolphins. There, they discovered that a tiger had wandered into the community and been slain by the locals who had captured him. Piyali disagreed with the murders that infuriated the

community. Piyali, Fokir, and Kanai managed to leave the community in some way. Here, there are two places where the dislocation topic may be found.

Sense of alienation:-

Piyali experienced a sense of alienation in this situation as well since she is from an area where she was raised with the idea that protecting animals is a top priority. She was so opposed to the tiger's death. She begged Fokir, whom she trusted, to assist her in rescuing the tiger, but he refused. That deeply saddened Piyali (Ghosh, 2004, 118). This is where the barrier of disagreement between Piyali, the locals, and Fokir can be seen. Piyali struggled to comprehend the peasants' situation, and the villagers struggled to comprehend Piyali's argument. Piyali felt so out of place because of that.

Individual migration is typically described in terms of imperatives, such as "push" and "pull" causes. The socio-economic pressure that compels individuals to flee is typically regarded negatively as the push factor. This type of push factor relates to conflict, ethnic cleansing, riots, violence, poverty, etc. that compels people to leave their homes and live in foreign locations. The stress of being uprooted in this way prevents migrants from assimilating into the other country. The pull factors, on the other hand, are those that draw individuals from other places because they provide advantageous possibilities or facilities (Ghosh, 2004, 194).

The predicament of these migrants problematizes the globalization narrative, which views migration as an innovative mode of existence. In this era of globalization, as the world observes the continuous dispersion of people, Ghosh tries to draw attention to this devastating element of migrant life for the displaced, underprivileged, and minority people. The ingrained sense of identity is shaken by the relocation and dislocation that are followed by a sense of loss and a wish to return home. Since diasporic migration entails establishing roots abroad

and moving to a new location, one observes a complicated, multi-dimensional negotiation in one's allegiance to the cultures of their home country and the nation they are now living.

For instance, in "*The Hungry Tide*", the dispersion of the poorest and most marginalized members of East Pakistani society causes them existential trouble. These people suffer from the idea of losing their "home," and the Indian nation-state views them as squatters and trespassers, supported by the worldwide language of ecology.

Environmentalism and destabilization, as well as globalization and its effects:-

The resistance of nature to its rigorous categorization and regimentation is illustrated by Ghosh in "*The Hungry Tide*". He talks about how the Sundarbans' islanders, who are thought to be remote and unaffected by contemporary technology and developments, are affected by globalization. Economic globalization and technological development have given temporary employees opportunities. Global connection, which makes travel more pleasant and safe, has made migration simpler in the modern day. Guest workers from Algeria may be seen as the most obvious examples of this type of migration in France. According to Ghosh, the politics of power have a significant impact on how dislocated and displaced individuals establish their identities(Ghosh, 2004: 97). We have seen in "*The Hungry Tide*" how poor immigrants and illegal employees suffer in a foreign country due to their social and political position.

Socio-cultural and cross-cultural issues:-

The migrants' cultural baggage causes them to encounter other socio-cultural structures, which might have several unintended consequences. Their idea of who they are is shaped by this cross-cultural engagement. Any experience involving migration must consider both the material conditions and the cultural contacts. The migrants might not necessarily find their pristine environment to be financially advantageous, since the displaced people sometimes must live in squalor. The varied regulations and limits placed upon the admittance

of individuals may put migrants at risk in foreign nations. For certain migrants and individuals from the diaspora, however, who make use of the prevailing socio-cultural context to their advantage, Ghosh also illustrates the potential of change and the hope of a brighter future. The point I'm trying to make is that Ghosh shows the complexity of the migratory experience as it was lived by refugees at various moments in history.

By providing a migrant viewpoint through which the characters that experience cultural and geographic dislocation negotiate their connection, Amitav Ghosh problematizes the notion of identity. It makes sense that the perspective that emerges from Ghosh's works is varied and multifaceted. The refugees learn that the significance of their social identity is diminished because of their relocation to a new location. The refugees do not develop any hybrid identities because of their exile since they lack political and cultural authority. However, they also feel the annihilation of their social identity, which is based on a variety of socio-cultural associations. It makes sense why the nation-state labels these individuals as undesirable trespassers who must be removed to maintain the Sundarbans' biological equilibrium.

When the storm passes, Piyali observes that Fokir has finally fallen victim to the cyclone's force. That nightfall, the rituals were conducted, and he was burned. Despite their linguistic differences, Fokir and Piyali were able to communicate and felt a feeling of community throughout their brief time together. After taking a break, Piyali comes back to Lusibari to work at the Badabon Trust. Additionally, she decides to embark on a project in the Sundarbans to help and save the endangered dolphins. When Piyali Roy and Kanai Dutt first meet; they are traveling to Canning by rail. They are both traveling to Bengal's Sundarbans, an island in the region's southeast.

It is also a cultural construct that excludes alternative identities since it is contingent on and derives from social connections rather than being a permanent objective or reality. In

creating "multidialectal histories" for *"The Hungry Tide,"* Ghosh tries to identify crucial factors including shared area, origin, historical events, similar language, common religion, and morality and traditions. The book does warn readers that these objective components cannot potentially be compared; rather, they can only be comprehended in terms of their interconnectedness. Ghosh places a greater emphasis on individual lives than on the vast historical arc that serves as the backdrop. They do, however, demonstrate his expanding and almost displacement-like fascination with memory, time, and history.

Quest for Identity:-

The subject of identity takes on a different dimension in Ghosh's fiction, which is filled with migrants torn from their places of origin, in terms of its formation, maintenance, and potential re-formulation. Therefore, migration is addressed in a variety of ways in Ghosh's novels, conjuring a diverse approach to the topic of migration and the potential effects it has on the creation of identity. People who are uprooted from their ancestral homes are classified according to how they relate to the idea of "home." It makes logical that a person's feeling of rootedness, as reflected by their home, is the most crucial coordinate of their identity.

As a result, the displacement opens new avenues for negotiating one's identity. The new condition may change how one is perceived by others, making it impossible to maintain one's current identity. The socially disempowered individuals who are not well-liked in their nation of adoption or migration are the best examples of this. When Amitav Ghosh fictionalizes the many ways people negotiate their identities, he investigates this multidimensionality. However, Amitav Ghosh dissociates himself from providing any concrete model of identity development since he reflects on the potential adjustments in how one might experience themselves in various contexts.

Conclusion:-

Ghosh frequently explores the idea of displacement in his writing, and he always deftly links the novel's theme to its setting. Because nature frequently appears in his writings as a significant character, he might be referred to as a nature writer. Despite the large cast of individuals in the novel “ *The Hungry Tide*”, one might argue that nature serves as the story's main character. When refugees are uprooted from their home country, they are first treated poorly at the camp. They then attempted to settle in Sundarbans, but once more, nature resisted them. Both the government and nature turned against them. Two episodes that happened in two separate locations and two different eras are depicted so masterfully by Amitav Ghosh. With its empathetic surprise, “*The Hungry Tide*” succeeds in presenting the mysterious history and culture of India. In this situation, the formulation of political and economic demands acquires a crucial significance. Displacement can sometimes encourage individuals to recognize their many affiliations, but it can also push them to maintain their specific identity in the face of prevailing ideas. They engage in identity politics as a result and fail to recognize how inadequate social identity indicators are.

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