CHAPTER IV

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE CHARACTERS

4.1 Preliminaries

The chapter deals with the comparative study of the male and female characters in the selected novels of Philip Roth and Mulk Raj Anand. It studies both societies from the critical point of view with the help of and characterization in these novels. The chapter also contains the analysis of the characters on the basis of class race and caste milieu. The Heroic and Villainous roles of the characters are critically presented in this chapter. At the same time, the religious and political dimensions of the characters are thoroughly studied in the chapter. It analyzes the American Jewish as well as the underprivileged Indian characters in the novels. The qualifications and disqualifications of the characters are deeply studied in the chapter. While analyzing, the characters the various aspects of the society such as religion, politics etc. It not only considers the conflict of protagonists in the novels but it also focuses on the struggle of minor characters. Both the writers try to portray the male and female characters with the help of a unique the technique of characterization. They try to depict the moral and ethical aspects of the characters to appreciate their good qualities. The villainous characters are attributed wicked and immoral traits or characteristics. The chapter attempts to compare and contrast the characters in a detailed manner by taking into account the socio-cultural dimension that the writers present in the novel.
Roth depicts the Jewish community as well as their sufferings in the novel *The Plot Against America*. It consists of major historical incidents, through which the sufferings of the characters are revealed. For instance, the Jews were massacred in Europe during World War II because they were Jews and they were discriminated in the various countries just because they were Jews. During the World War II, the Jews were treated inhumanly and exploited by the Nazis. They received the worst treatment in those days because they belonged to the Jew race. Roth attempts to depict such types of burning issues of the Jews and their sufferings in the novel *The Plot Against America*. He exposes the cause of the misery, agony and anxious situation of the Jews in America with the help of male and female characters in the novel. Anand also depicts the miserable, squalid and unhygienic condition in which the untouchable and the coolies are forced to live. The novelist focuses on the social evils with the help of male and female characters.

### 4.2 Male and Female Characters in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America*

In Jewish American literature, the novelist Philip Roth is well known for his realistic portrayal of characters. He skillfully unveils the social evils with the help of his male and characters. Similarly, he depicts the trials and tribulations of the characters in the novel *The Plot Against America*. Many characters in this novel are Jews as he himself is a Jew and is well aware of the sufferings and problems of the Jews. He has studied the western culture, society and the variety men and
women. Therefore, he attempts to create the symbolic characters in his novels.

The novel *The Plot Against America* consists not only of the incidents from the real life of characters but there are also imagery characters in the novel. He attempts to present the universal problems, widespread suffering of the human beings and social crisis with the help of poignant description of the characters and their idiolectic behaviour.

In Indian English Literature, Mulk Raj Anand too exposes the social stigmas such as hypocrisy, casteism, and ant-social elements in Indian society through his characters sketches. He believes that the man should be judged not by birth but by his/her qualities. Therefore, Anand is conscious while depicting characters in his novels. He exposes the different variety of types of characters and their mind-sets in the novel *Untouchable*. The technique of presentation of realistic characters and the use of Indian English are two major qualities of his writing. Taking into account these two qualities, he creates some dynamic characters who influence other characters and interfere in their lives. The subject of the novel is an untouchable boy and his conflict against the anti-social forces. The novel consists of variety of characters from different strata of the society. He attempts to build the characters from omniscient point of view as he is not only conscious about the characters but also well aware of the reality of the Indian society.

In both the novels *The Plot Against America* and *Untouchable*, one can find some similar and dissimilar aspects the social circumstance.
Both the novels contain family members, and family background such as of the characters such as the families including the characters of fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and other relatives. Secondly, one can find the personal crisis, alienated relationship and the absurd characters or situations among the family members. Thirdly, the writers do not give given scope to love affairs of the characters and romance of the heroes. Fourthly, the heroes of the novels only express the anger, misery and rebellious feelings against the existing society, but they fail to achieve success in their lives. Most of the characters in the novels are presented from the social angle. Fifthly, the protagonists, their thoughts, activities and actions change in the course of time in the novels. Both the writers try to represent the heroes as social servants who struggle against the anti-social elements and the inhuman treatment.

4.2.1 Fathers: Lakha (Untouchable) and Herman (The Plot Against America).

Lakha is not only a Jamadar of sweepers in the town but also in charge of the three lines so he feels proud of his profession. He works hard, but due to the old age, he is not able to work. Therefore, he assigns the responsibility of this work to his elder son Bakha. In The Plot Against America, Roth creates the father as a middle-aged man named Herman. He is the head of the family and works as an insurance agent in a private company. Herman is quite young and energetic in nature; so he does every work promptly without any mistake. Simultaneously, he helps his wife in the household chores, but the father figure in Untouchable is in contrast to the father figure
in *The Plot Against America*. Herman is well educated and highly qualified as compared to Lakha. His family background is also better than Lakha’s family background.

Both the writers try to present the social status of Herman and Lakha in the novels *The Plot Against America* and *Untouchable* respectively with the help of family relations and social viewpoints. One notices that Lakha is short tempered and outrageous by nature and always uses abusive language to address the family members like ‘You son of a pig’, ‘illegally begotten’ in his day-to-day life, but Herman is very mild and cooperative. He never uses any bad words or abusive language for his family members. With respect to social standing Lakha differs from Herman. One finds contrast in characterization between Lakha and Herman. Being untouchable, Lakha is well aware of the Indian social structure so he does not dare to fight against the established society. Though he comes to know that his daughter is sexually exploited by the priest Kali Nath, he does not utter a single word against him due to the centuries of servitude. On the other hand, he advises his son to accept the superiority his masters and do as per their wishes. He says:

“They are our superiors. One word of theirs is sufficient to over balance all that we might say before the police. They are our masters. We must respect them and do as they tell us.” (U-p.71)

Anand presents Lakha as a meek and timid old man. At the same time, he tries to present the traditional views of old generation of the Dalit characters like Lakha. While creating Herman’s character, Roth
considers the nationality and the social structure of the American society. He tries to build the rebellious characters of the Jews in America. Herman is a representative of Jewish society. His family suffers very much due to the evil activities of Nazi and Lindberg. During the Washington tour, he gets inferior treatment from the hotel manager and his family suffers, therefore, he tries to fight against him. He abuses:

“Sons of bitches!” My father said. “Fascist bastards!” (PAA-p.12)

In the novel *The Plot Against America* Philip Roth writes about the life of the characters in a metropolitan city. Focusing on the Jewish community and their problems where as in his novel *Untouchable* Mulk Raj Anand presents the characters from undeveloped, economically backward and socially weaker class focusing on the marginalized section of the Indian society. His characters come from various parts of India like villages, sub-urban and metropolitan city. It is observed that there is a similarity in presenting the characters in both the novels as far as race and caste are concerned. Both the writers adopt the technique of presenting the universal qualities of the father figures in the novels.

Lakha and Herman love their sons. After the death of his wife, Lakha does not remarry only because of his two sons and daughter. Though he appears to be rough devoid of any feelings, he loves his family members very deeply. Anand presents a heart-melting incident that proves the affection of Lakha. During Bakha’s illness, he runs to the
door of the doctor and humbly requests him for medical checkup; at that time, he gets worst treatment from the doctor. But he never gets angry because he is ready to do anything for his son Bakha. Anand depicts the love and emotions of Indian father especially the Dalit father as follows

“I began to shed tears,” Lakha continued and said, “Maharaj, Great one, I forgot. Your shoe on my head. I am not in my sense. Maharaj, you are my father and mother. I can’t compensate for the medicines. I can only serve you. Will you come and give some medicine to my child? He is on his death-bed!” (U-p.73)

From Lakha’s imploring one comes to know his love for his son Bakha. Roth also narrates the typical American father and his love for and attachment to his sons. At the time of separation from his son, Herman becomes emotional and strongly opposes to OAA program of Kentucky farm because he knows the cunning plan of Lindbergh to separate the Jewish father from their son, so he tries to convince Sandy. He says:

“Do you understand what this program is actually trying to do?’ My father asked Sandy, “why Lindbergh wants to separate boys like you from their families and ship them out of the sticks? Do you have any idea what’s behind all this?” (PAA-p.102)
Thus, Herman tries to change the opinion of his son about the OAA program, but fails in his plan. Both authors attempt to portray the universal qualities of father in their respective novels. The caste, race, countries and physical aspects do not make any difference in emotions and feelings of a father. It is the same phenomenon applicable to the human beings all over the world. Such types of universal traits are used by the writers to build the characters of father in their novels. In order to consider the social awareness and the attachment of the communities, both authors have narrated the contrasting viewpoints of their characters such as Herman and Lakha. Being a Jew himself, Herman is a strong follower of the Jewish community. He tries to persuade the Jews to form unity and strong internal relation so that he deeply gets involved in the reformation of the union and organization of the Jewish people. He expects the Jews to be around him. Herman says to his wife:

“Our will be the house ‘where the Jew live’. It’ll be Elizabeth all over again.” (PAA-p.10)

Herman is strongly attached to the Jewish people; therefore, he is worried about the fascist followers and about their cunning policy. He always abuses them for their evil activities against the Jews. It is amply clear that Herman is against the Fascists and their policies. He calls them bastards and sons of bitches because they bring the trouble to the Jewish society.

He also provokes his son Sandy and nephew Alvin to fight against Fascist people. On the other hand, Anand projects Lakha’s character
as a meek, timid and traditional in nature. He does not retaliate against the traditional rules of Hindus as well as the caste system in Bulashah. Both the fathers face rebellious natures of their sons. Sometimes, they get abused treatment from their sons. Bakha abuses his father:

“The bully!,” Bakha exclaimed under his breath as he listened to the last accents of his father's voice die out in a clumsy, asthmatic cough.” (U-p.06)

Similar quality of Sandy is portrayed by Roth in The Plot Against America. Sandy rejects the advice of his father and uses the abusive words against his father. Sandy says:

“Bullshit”! (PAA-p.229)

Sandy again says:

“You’re a dictator,’ Sandy said him, ‘You’re a dictator worse that Hitler. (PAA-p.229) It seems that Sandy does not share a good relationship with his father because he behaves like a dictator.

4.2.2 Sons: Bakha (Untouchable) and Sandy (The Plot Against America)

At the same time both the writers try to present the characters of sons, with their similar and dissimilar aspects and their individual crisis. Both the young boys of eighteen years and quite sincere like Sandy. The social and family backgrounds of these characters are different, but we find the same common features between Bakha and Sandy.
Both Bakha and Sandy are good and cooperative in nature and their relation with their brothers and sisters in the family is good. Bakha always cares for his little brother Rakha and suggests him to improve his lifestyle. Bakha always gives good advice to his younger brother Rakha to improve the living standard and social status. Similarly, the relation between Sandy and Philip is also very healthy as well as cooperative.

Both the writers depict the cooperative and emotional relations between the brothers. The universal quality of brotherhood is used by the writers in their respective novels to present the relationship among the family members and their close attachment to each other. To fulfill the hobby of painting, Sandy works every week to earn money and saves it in the collection box so that he can use it to buy paints and brushes. He shovels the snow and washes family cars to get extra money. The following description highlights this fact:

“Sandy saved his weekly allowance of twenty-five cents and what change he earned shoveling snow and raking leaves and washing the family car.” (PAA-p.28)

Sandy works hard to earn money and enjoy the hobbies. Anand also presents Bakha’s diligence and how he works to fulfill the daily need of his family as well as his own. Meanwhile, he puts in extra efforts to fulfill the desire to purchase the English dress and cigarettes. He is not only fascinated by British clothes, but he also uses them to maintain his living standard. The following description reveals this fact:
“The pay which he received there had of course to be given to his father, but the bakshish, which he had collected from the Tommies amounted to ten rupees, and although he couldn’t buy all the things in the ragseller’s shop he wished to he had been able to buy the jacket, the overcoat, the blanket he slept under....”  (U-p.04)

Both the authors use the common habits to build the characters in their novels. Bakha and Sandy have the good habits of saving money. Anand and Roth build the characters’ social point of view. As critics of the society, both writers attempt to present revolting nature of the characters as well as observe the socio-cultural background of the characters in the novel Untouchable, and The Plot Against America. Anand presents the youthful and fresh minded eighteen-year-old boy Bakha and his struggle for equality in the society. From the beginning of the novel Untouchable, Bakha gets inhuman treatment from the several higher caste Hindus only because he belongs to the lowest caste,

4.2.3 Minor Characters in Untouchable and The Plot Against America.

Anand and Roth give an important place to the minor characters such as adolescent and adult characters in their novels. The adolescent characters play the minor roles in the novels, but these minor roles are equally significant to develop the plot of in the novels. The writers have introduced some minor characters in the novels as well as their supportive roles to develop the action and the story of the novels.
Sandy, Philip, Alvin and Seldon are representatives of the Jewish race and belong to the adolescent category. On the other hand, Rakha, Ram Charan and Chota are the representatives of the Dalit caste and belong to the adolescent category in the novel. Philip is a brother of Sandy and plays a very minor role in the novel *The Plot Against America*. He always follows the advice of his brother in his day-to-day activities. At the same time, he seeks guidance from him. He discusses subjects such as politics, societies, friends and drawings with his brother Sandy. He considers that his brother knows everything and he feels proud of his brother: He says:

“There was nobody more truthful than my brother.”(PAA-p.31)

It proves the closeness and attachment of Philip with his brother Sandy. Similar closeness and attachment is also noticed between Bakha and Rakha in the novel *Untouchable*. Rakha is a minor character as well as the brother of Bakha. He is sincere and hard working, but his living standard is very low so Bakha often gives him instructions to improve his living style. Rakha follows his brother’s advice without any inhibitions. One understands the close association between these two brothers.

Ram Charan and Chota are also the minor characters in the novel *Untouchable*. They are close friends of Bakha and belong to the Dalit society so that they feel affinity for the untouchables and share their worries. Similarly, Alvin and Seldon are also minor male characters portrayed by Roth in *The Plot Against America*. Alvin is not only the cousin of Sandy but also the follower of his uncle Herman. As a Jew,
he feels very bad about the sufferings of other Jews in America and in different parts of the world. Every day, he discusses the problems of the Jews with his uncle. The role of Seldon is also very minor like the role of Chota in the novel Untouchable. Thus, there are similarities in the features of the minor characters.

Adult Characters also play an important role in the novels. Both the writers give some minor roles to adult characters in their novels. The characters like Uncle Monty, Havildar Charat Singh, Mr. Cucuzza, Mr. Mawhinney, R. N. Bashir, Colonel Hutchinson, Pundit Kali Nath and Iqbal Nath Sarshar all belong to the adult category.

Uncle Monty and Havildar Charat Singh are professional by nature. Both of them not only give good guidelines to the young generation but also help them to improve the lifestyle. Their roles are very minor, but they help to develop the plot and the conflict in the novels. Monty motivates his nephew Alvin to develop the positive attitude in life and encourages him for hard work but unfortunately he is not successful in his plan to improve the lifestyle of Alvin. On the other hand, in the novel Untouchable, the researcher observes the similar role of Charat Singh. He also motivates Bakha to do hard work and pay attention to hockey game. He gives him a new hockey stick and appreciates his body power but Bakha fails to follow the advice of Charat Singh.

Pundit Kali Nath and Rabbi Bengelsdorf belong to the religious fields and both are cunning in nature. Anand and Roth attempt to expose the religious hypocrisies in their novels by presenting such types of characters. Though Pundit Kali Nath is the priest of the temple, he
uses his position to malign the social atmosphere rather than to maintain the social morality. He tries to molest Sohini but fails in his plan. Similarly, in the novel *The Plot Against America*, Roth also depicts the character of clergyman and his immoral qualities like Pundit Kali Nath. Rabbi Bengelsdorf broadcasts his sermon weekly on the radio station WNJR as well as gives speeches about the ideology of the Jews at various places, but all these things go in vain because he gets involved in anti-social activities against the Jews. After considering the nature of these two characters, the researcher discovers hypocrisy in the different religions only because of the selfish nature of the people belonging to the priestly class.

Another striking similarity in noticed between La Guardia and R. N. Basher go against the main political leaders in their respective countries. La Guardian is anti-Lindbergh mayor of Newark and tries to present the social reality of the Jews in America and other parts of the World. Similarly, in the novel *Untouchable* one notices the anti-Gandhi character like R. N Bashir. He bitterly criticizes Gandhi. In both the novels *The Plot Against America* and *Untouchable* other minor characters such as La Guardia, R. N. Bashir, Walter Winchell and Iqbal Nath Sarshar play significant roles to develop the plot construction and the story. Among these characters, some belong to the political as well as religious fields. In *The Plot Against America*, the characters such as La Guardia and Walter Winchell belong to the political field. Roth depicts them as social workers and real patriots in America. Similarly, in *Untouchable*, Mulk Raj Anand depicts nationalist characters such as R.N Bashir and Iqbal Nath Sarshar as
patriot. Though they do not belong to political field, they bitterly criticize the hypocrisy of political agenda and the speech of Gandhi. They think that the blot of caste can be washed out by changing the profession of the outcastes. They think that machine is the only solution for the eradication of the caste system in Indian.

4.2.4 Major Female Characters in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America*.

The female characters play a vital role in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America*. The researcher tries to bring out the different features through the comparative study of the female characters. Both the writers realize the value of female characters. They give important roles to women characters in their novels and try to bring them in the main stream of the society. Male and female are binary parts in the universal literature.

Mulk Raj Anand and Philip Roth depict the sacrifice of the women characters for their family, children and husbands. The women characters in *Untouchable* and *The Plot Against America* are very submissive as well as hard working in nature. Some women characters in this novel *The Plot Against America* are modest and submissive in nature. Roth neither depicts strong rebellious nor anti-husband types of wives in the novel. The character of wife is very submissive, dutiful, and faithful to husband and family members.

Mulk Raj Anand is one of the leading writers in the Indian English literature portrays the women characters realistically. In the novel
Untouchable, Anand creates a variety of women characters and presents them in different social situations to expose the sufferings and bitter reality of the women in Indian society. He depicts the male dominated and traditional types of women characters in his novels, in the pre-independent period. Anand reveals the social background, qualifications, disqualifications and the contemporary social situation in his novels. The women characters in the novel Untouchable belong to Dalit as well as lower castes. Similarly, in The Plot Against America, Roth depicts the Jewish women characters, their social and individual problems in the contemporary era. This novel helps the reader to study the social problems of the Jewish women characters. Sohini and Bess are two main characters introduced by Anand and Philip in the novels Untouchable and The Plot Against America. Sohini is a single female character in the family of Lakha. She takes care of everything in the house such as cooking the food, cleaning the house, washing the clothes and fetching drinking water. She is a hard working as well as innocent girl. She never complains against anyone in the house. During the household chores, she faces many problems like lack of fuel, water and other necessary things in the house but she accepts it without any grumble. The following description reveals this fact:

“Her smoke – irritated eyes were full of water. She turned and saw her brother. Real tears began to flow down her cheeks.”
(U-p.13)

One observes that the low economic status as well as poverty-stricken life of Sohini is due to lack of basic facilities in the house. She is
illiterate and is unaware of the outside world. On account of both being an untouchable and a woman, she does not object anyone. According to the Manusmriti, Hindu treats women are not allowed to go outside, to take part in education and acquire knowledge in the world. Hence, Sohini has limitations because of the rigid caste based social structure. On the other hand, the women in Jewish society are totally different in nature. Bess is one of the Jews in America, well-educated, mature and married woman having two sons. Her social, economic and religious status is more powerful than that of Sohini. Therefore, she is not physically exploited by others in the American society. Considering the family background, social aspect and education, both women characters are noticed to be dissimilar in nature, but one can find the common traits between them. Both women characters face subordination due to the patriarchal nature of society. For instance, Herman tries to underestimate his wife:

“Herman,” gasped my mother, I can’t go on with this.” (PAA-p.79)

From the above comment one comes to know the male domination is predominant in the Jewish society despite good education and economic statues. Similarly, Anand also presents the Dalit society and male domination in his novel. For instance, Sohini suffers due to the male domination situation in the family. Lakha says:

“I thought you were dead or something, you daughter of a pig.” (U-p.23)
From the above expression of Lakha, it becomes clear that Sohini has to undergo sufferings. She receives ill treatment from her father only because she belongs to the ‘women category’. However, both the women look after their family members and take care of them, prepare food for them and do the household chores. Bess loves her sons very much and makes them feel comfortable. She offers her children food and takes care of their needs.

“Here my mother removed herself to the kitchen- purportedly to check on the dinner.” (PAA-p.125)

Being a housewife, she is perfect in her duty and herself prepares food for her two sons as well as her husband. The researcher finds similar qualities in the character of Sohini. She is also very honest in her duty and takes care of her two brothers and father as well as works hard for her family. One notice Sohini belongs to the untouchable, caste sweeper i.e. sweeper. Therefore, she faces humiliation in her daily life. She enjoys freedom neither in her house nor can go outside.

Bess has less social limitations than Sohini in the American society because she belongs to the Jewish race. At the same time, her relation with her husband, two sons and other members of the family are friendly. She is neither troubled nor abused by them like Sohini. Her family background is good. She enjoys a good status in the society as compared to Sohini. Anand attempts to depict the poverty, pitiable condition of the Dalit Society and their problems in day-to-day life because of the lower status the untouchables in the society.
Generally, in the common life and in the society, the women shoulder the responsibility of household chores. This universal aspect has been used by these two writers with regard to the characterization of Bess and Sohini. Both women characters are very submissive, loyal and faithful to their family members. They have neither rebellious thoughts nor complaints against them. After the humiliation from the followers of Lindbergh, Bess is disappointed but she is helpless and tries to control her husband. Bess says:

“My mother said,” Herman, it’s over.” (PAA-p.82)

Both characters suffer more or less because of their caste or race. Sohini is so meek that she is unable to oppose her physical exploiter strongly because of the caste and male dominance. Both the Sohini and Bess are unique women characters because both are representatives of their caste and race. Sohini suffers more than Bess due her low-caste and lack of education. At the same time, she does not get moral support except from her brother Bakha. Anand and Roth narrate the universal qualities of both the women characters in terms of their suffering.

4.2.5 Minor Female Characters in Untouchable and The Plot Against America

The minor women characters play a supportive role to the main characters in the novels Untouchable and The Plot Against America. Both the writers depict the negative, anti-social and evil roles of the characters such as Gulabo and Aunt Evelyn. Gulabo belongs to the
washermen caste slightly higher than the scavengers in Untouchable. Therefore, she dominates Sohini physically and mentally to exhibit the power. Anand describes:

“…first because she claimed a high place in the hierarchy of the castes among the low castes, secondly, because a well-known Hindu gentleman in the town who had been her lover in her youth was still kind to her in her middle age”. (U-p.16)

It is clear that Gulabo is immoral. She keeps illicit relations with a Hindu gentleman, though she is married and has children. Similarly, Roth depicts the immoral woman character such as Aunt Evelyn and her antisocial role in the novel. Her first marriage proves unhappy because the person whom she married is Italian and the father of three children. Let us study the comment of Bess about her sister Aunt Evelyn:

“…she would have settled down to marry after getting her teaching certificate and never have ended up failing in and out “unsavory” relationship with married men who were her fellow teachers”. (PAA-p.104)

From this comment, it is clear that Aunt Evelyn is immoral in nature and her sister is not happy about her illicit relation. Another common feature between these two women characters in their anti-social activities. Both Gulabo and Evelyn create problems for their relatives and others due to their immoral relations and anti social attitudes. Aunt Evelyn keeps immoral relations with anti-Jewish man against
the wishes of her sister and sister-in law because Rabbi Bengelsdorf is a close friend of American president Lindbergh and he has good status in the religious field. Her illicit relation as well as marriage with him proves trouble some to the other members of Herman’s family, so he abuses her. He says:

“The woman is an idiot, Bess,” my father said to her, ‘a childish, idiot understands nothing, a dangerous idiot.’” (PAA-p.223)

From the abusive expressions, it is clear that Herman and his family are absolutely against Aunt Evelyn and her second marriage. On the other hand, in Untouchable, Anand depicts antisocial attitude of Gulabo and her misbehavior with Sohini. She abuses Sohinis without any reason It seems that she feels jealous of Sohini’s beauty. She considers Sohini her competitor in the immoral world. She says:

“Ari, you bitch! Do you take me for a buffoon? What are you laughing at, slut?” (U-p.17)

This proves the evil attitude of Gulabo as well as her harmful nature.

There are some dissimilar features of the characterization of these two women as far as their socio-economic status is concerned. The social background of these two characters is different from each other. Though Gulabo keeps illicit relations with a Hindu man and becomes his mistress, she gets inferior treatment from other Hindus because she is an untouchable, but Aunt Evelyn gets good treatment from the followers of Lindbergh and his friends. Both the writers consider the
social status of the women characters. The economic status of Gulabo is low and she has to depend on the mercy of high caste people. However, Aunt Evelyn’s economic condition is better as compared to Gulabo’s condition. She does not depend on the mercy of others.

4.3 Male and Female Characters in Coolie and Everyman

In the novels Everyman and Coolie there are some male and female characters in having similarities and differences at various levels individual, social and economic.

4.3.1 Munoo in Coolie and The Namless Hero in Everyman

The heroes are different from each other with respect to their socio-economic status. Their family background is also different. The hero in Roth’s Everyman belongs to the upper class society having a good family background. He helps his father in his business to embellish the jewelry, bring the diamonds and to sell them to the consumers in the city. He has a good knowledge of the jewelry business. Therefore, he tries to make contacts with other merchants to expand the business and get the latest information about the valuable jewelry items. Roth attempts to present hard working and business minded qualities of the hero through his characterization in the novel Everyman. Similarly, Anand in Coolie depicts business-minded attitude of Munoo through his work as a delivery boy in the pickle factory of Prabh Dyal. Sir Todar Mal, Ganpat, and British officer are the prominent example of characters in these two novels.
There are some striking points of similarities between Munoo and the nameless hero. Both the heroes are erotic in nature. In *Everyman*, Roth depicts promiscuous nature of his hero as well as his illicit relations with other women. He marries three times and maintains illicit relations with other women to satisfy his lust. Munoo’s case is drastically different from the nameless hero. Munoo’s first experience to embrace Lakshmi is an indication of his erotic nature. He is forced by Laxshimi to do so. He is too inexperienced to indulge in such type of proximity with any woman. The second incident in the life of Munoo is narrated by Anand when Munoo joins Mrs. Mainwaring as a servant:

“...Munoo smiled with the quivering ripples of affection that the contact of her hands had produced him. He felt dizzy with the intoxicating warmth that her coquettish movements had aroused in him. He hung his head down to avoid the embarrassment which he felt, and yet unable to control the fire in his blood, he fell at her feet in an orgy of tears and kisses.” (C-p.259)

From the description it is clear that, Anand presents the erotic nature of Munoo and how he tries to control his sexual desire as well as suppress it through his eccentric behavior with Mrs. Mainwaring.

Both writers attempt to universalize the sexual habits of the characters through their characterization.
In the novel *Coolie* Anand depicts the typical pre-independent Indian family background of the orphan boy named Munoo who stays with his uncle and aunt. At the very beginning of the novel, we come to know that his father and mother died due to the exploitation by a moneylender in the village. Therefore, he lives with his childless uncle and aunt. He has to depend on them for his survival.

His uncle and aunt use him as a tool to earn more money. They send him to the town as a servant in the house of subaccount named Babu Nathoo Ram.

The family background of the two heroes is different from each other with respect to the profession. In *Everyman*, the Nameless hero’s father not only runs a jewelry store but also allows his own son to work with him in the jewelry shop so that he can acquire the practice knowledge of the business. The family background of the nameless hero is affluent. He is a rich, educated and hard working person. Whereas Munoo’s family background is miserable but both the heroes undergo sufferings on account of different family backgrounds.

The problems of the working class families in India are totally different from the business families in America. Being a realistic writer in Indian English literature, Anand attempts to present fictional characters to emphasize the social, religious and economic reality of colonial India. He also brings out the undeveloped social structure, poor economic situation of the Indian families through his characterization. On the other hand, in the novel *Everyman* Roth attempts to emphasize different types of problems in the American
families such as hunger for sex, longing for luxurious lifestyles and materialistic attitude. Like Anand, he also emphasizes the family problems, personal crisis and absurd life in the American society. Munoo’s family, life story and social struggle symbolically represent the Indian society. Similarly, the Nameless hero’s family, life story and the journey of his life from the age of nine to death symbolically represent the American society.

Both the writers narrate physical fitness and weakness of the heroes while of building the characters in their novels. In Coolie, Anand’s hero is a typical Indian villager as well as sturdy boy of nine years without any experiences of urban life. He faces many problems in his life especially when he begins to live in the city. However, the nameless hero in Roth’s novel comes from an urban area and has no experiences of village life. Both the writers try to create the symbolic characters in their novels to focus on different cultures and the human attitudes in the then existing society. The characters in their novels convey the importance of hard work, human habits, follies and struggle for good life. Both the writers depict the journey of their protagonists from birth to death symbolizing human sufferings.

Both the writers depict the suffering, pain and the tragic death of the heroes due to the disease. Mulk Raj Anand gives a clear and poignant description of the poor fifteen year old boy who works as a child labor and eventually dies of tuberculosis. The death of Munoo can be attributed to his exploitation by the masters, excessive work and lack of moral support, but in case of nameless hero, his father hospitalizes him for his hernia operation at the age of nine. After he suffers from
various diseases and faces an operation such as heart operation or by pass of heart. He is terribly scared of his suffering so his mother gives him company in the hospital. In the case of Munoo, he does not get support from his close relatives because he is an orphan. One notices the difference at the level of marital status of both the protagonist. In Roth’s *Everyman*, the hero marries three times but he is far from happy married life because of his extramarital affairs and broken relations with his two sons. In the care of Munoo, he remains a bachelor till the end of his life.

In *Everyman*, Roth gives the minute details of the family problems and alienated relations among the family members through the characterization of the Nameless hero. He tries to present the family as a symbol of American society and exposes the weaknesses of the members of the family. Similarly, in *Coolie*, Anand attempts to present the broken relations, selfish attitude and absurd relations in the families of Munoo, Bibiji Uttam Kaur and Mrs. Mainwaring. All these families symbolically represent Indian society in the pre-independence days. Both the writers attempt to present the crisis among the family members.

Both the novelists attempt to present the family problems of their respective countries through the life story of the central characters in the novels. In America, the social and economic status of the people is good but due to the eccentric behavior, illicit relations, unfaithfulness and the materialistic attitude, they create problems for their families. All these factors contribute to destroy the love bond of the family members. On the other hand, in India the economic struggle is more
acute which is presented through the characters of Munoo by Anand. He depicts the poor economic and social situation of Indian families with the help of Munoo’s character. Munoo himself suffers due to utter poverty and lack of support from his relatives. On the other hand, he is morally good as compared to the nameless Hero. Both the writers try to present the eccentric attitudes of the heroes and their broken relations with other people. In Coolie Anand depicts the depressed mind of his hero due to the worst treatment given by the relatives and unknown people in the world. Munoo, he does not get love and affection from his close relatives, but in Everyman, one can see that the Nameless hero gets physical and moral support from his relatives though he is immoral and unfaithful to them.

One discovers a striking point of similarities and differences as far as the suffering of both the hero’s are concerned. Munoo suffers only because of malnutrition, misfortune and exploitation. During the journey of his life, Munoo comes across different people from the cross sections of the Indian society most of them are selfish, inhuman and atrocious. Only Prabha Dyal and Ratan prove to be kind, helpful and supportive to him. But he gets their company for a very short period. In the case of the nameless hero, one notices the favorable atmosphere but he does not exploit it. His second wife Phoebe’s daughter Nancy loves him, but she goes away from him because of his extramarital and illicit relations with other women. In his illness, he gets good treatment from them. He suffers because of his own mistakes, habits of sex and selfish nature but Munoo’s suffering is due to harassment, ill treatment, and exploitation by his uncle, aunt, the
factory and plantation owners. The nameless hero suffers owing to his characters flaw whereas Munoo suffers due to the circumstances.

4.3.2 Female Characters in Coolie and Everyman

The women characters in the novels Coolie and Everyman have some striking points of similar and difference. Anand and Roth create their female characters as the counter response to all traditional concepts that act to weaken women. Female characters in these novels are very submissive and soft minded in nature regarding their role in the families. Both the writers emphasize the traditional role of the women characters in their respective novels. Anand portrays the typical Indian women, who accept the male domination. In Coolie Anand describes the journey of Munoo from his village to the four main places such as Daulatpur, Shampur, Mumbai and Simla. During this journey he comes in contact with women like Bibiji Uttam Kaur, Parbati, Lakshmi and Mrs. Mainwaring. All Indian women are not only submissive but also follow the culture of male dominated society. In the novel Everyman, we come to know about the life-style of American people through the women characters. Anand exposes the wicked nature women characters in his novel Coolie. Munoo’s aunt and Bibi Uttam Kaur are wicked and ill-treat Munoo and force him to migrate from one place another place. However Parvati and Mainwaring are kind and sympathetic. The women characters in Roth’s Everyman are submissive though their life-style is different.
4.3.2.1 Parbati in *Coolie* and Phoebe in *Everyman*

Anand presents Parbati as a submissive and hard working Indian woman in the novel *Coolie*. She is not only the wife of Prabha Dyal but also a caretaker of Munoo. She loves the orphan boy Munoo and treats him as her own son. Anand wants to create the ideal woman character in his novel. Parbati is a representative of such types of women. She is obedient, sincere submissive and co-operative. She supports her husband in his critical period and shoulders the responsibility of the household and factory work.

Similarly, Roth’s women characters are submissive and obedient in nature because they do not have the courage to go against the men characters. In modern America and in the strong feministic atmosphere, Roth introduces Phoebe as a submissive woman. Both the writers narrate similar features of wives in their novels. Phoebe, as traditional women, follows her husband without any objection and serves him faithfully during the problematic days. The characters of Phoebe and Parbati share some qualities. Parbati remains faithful to her husband because she is well aware of the nature of her husband and has complete faith in his actions. She remains faithful to her husband till his death because she is a dutiful and honest woman. She cannot tolerate her husband’s infidelity and affairs with other women. She keeps herself away from him, but she never uses immoral ways to teach a lesson to her husband. Phoebe is also a faithful wife to her husband and gives him moral support during his hospital days though she gets separated from him:
When he got home, he was so weak he could barely make it up the one little flight to their flat, and after he’d been helped by his wife from the entryway into the bedroom, he sat on the edge of the bed, where, for the first time in the presence of his children, he broke down and cried. (E-p.38)

It is explicit that Phoebe serves her husband heartily and supports him morally during his illness. In the case of Parbati she loves her husband very much and supports him when he is in troubled waters. When the police arrest her husband for forgery, Parbati refuses to take food day. Her feelings are evident from the following:

“She sobbed more bitterly than ever”. Oh, I do not know where to go, child”, she cried. I do not know what to do.” (C-p.113)

One notices the grief of Parbati during the tragic phase of her husband. Anand emphasizes the emotional nature of Indian women through the character of Parbati. The universal qualities of women such as emotional attitude, love for husband, faithfulness and strong opposition to extra-marital relations are presented by both the novelist.

One also notices dissimilar features of the women characters in both the novels. Phoebe and Parbati are different from each other as far as their family background is concerned.
The social and economic background of these women characters is dissimilar. Parbati suffers due to poverty caused by business failure. But in the case of Phoebe there are no sufferings an account of economic crisis. They have their own jewelry shop. Anand presents the poor, illiterate and miserable women characters while Roth presents his women characters as rich, educated and happy.

It is observed that there is a degree of difference between Phoebe in *Everyman* and Parbati in *Coolie* as far as their marital life is concerned.

Phoebe knows the immoral nature of her husband. She is not satisfied with her husband especially about his third marriage and illicit relations with other women. Therefore she lives separate. On the other hand, Prabati’s life is satisfied because her husband is faithful to her even though they are a childless couple. The sufferings of Phoebe are more painful than Parbati because her husband is not faithful to her. Moreover, she is divorced from her husband. It is observed that the other women characters in the respective novels share some similarities. For instance, Mrs. Mainwaring in *Coolie* and in *Everyman* Maureen are placed in the similar situation.

4.3.2.2 Mrs Mainwaring in *Coolie* and Maureen in *Everyman*

Mrs. Mainwaring belongs to the Anglo Indian family. Anand not only presents her multiple marriage life but also the multi-sexual relations with other men. She always imagines a fairytale picture of her family’s estate in Western Ireland. To fulfill that desire, she changes
a number of men for sex. Anand narrates her sexual experience in the following manner:

*If her mind had not been reacting against the deep-rooted belief in the sin of sex, she might have had an integrity of character which would have saved her from the onslights of all these men, but, vacillating between a belief she felt to be wrong and a desire which was continually insistent, she became a bitch to all the dogs that prowled round her bungalow.*" (C-p.252)

Thus, one comes to know the immoral nature of Mrs. Mainwaring. Roth emphasizes the similar features of Maureen in the novel *Everyman*. Maureen is a private duty nurse in the hospital where the nameless hero is admitted for heart surgery. She wants to marry a TV Cameraman after he gets a permanent job, but she is unsuccessful in the plan. Therefore she works in the hospital and after the work she enjoys luxurious life which includes drinking wine and attending night parties. Roth depicts her immoral relations:

*“He was not the first patient to fall in love with his nurse. He was not even the first patient to fall in love with Maureen. She’d had several affairs over the years, a few of them with men rather worse off than he was, who, like him, made a full recovery with the help of Maureen’s vitality.”* (E-p.50)

One notices the nature by nymphomaniac of Maureen and her indulgence in a chain of sexual escapades. Roth throws light on the basic problems of American society, infidelity of men and women
resulting in disturbed family life. Both the writers attempt to depict immoral aspects of the lives of the women characters.

4.3.2.3 Other Minor Female Characters in Coolie and Everyman.

Other minor female characters in the novels Coolie and Everyman also play a supportive role in the lives of the main women characters. The characters such as Bibhiji Uttam Kaur, Lakshmi in Coolie Nancy and Millicent Kramer in Everyman all are minor women characters. Anand presents a typical rustic woman character through Bibhiji Uttam Kaur. She is selfish, uneducated and senseless because she ill-treats Munoo for no reason. She pretends to be modern and well-mannered but in reality she is rustic and ill-mannered. She always criticizes Munoo for his rustic language but she forgets that she too comes from a village and uses the rustic expression.

It becomes clear that Bibiji’s is full of pride. She becomes happy to see other inferior people around her. She proves harmful to others in her house as well as out of the house. On the other hand, Nancy is one of the minor characters in the novel Everyman, but she is calm and quiet in nature. Her nature is dissimilar to the nature of Bibiji Uttam Kaur. She is educated, sincere and honest, but unfortunately, she is not able to complete her marriage life. Being a dutiful daughter, she loved her father and mother and always supports her father during his hospital stay. She is the only girl who arranges funeral for her father and calls everyone. She wishes to bury her father at the side of his grandparents whom he loves very much. She says:
“I wanted him to lie close to those who loved him and from whom he descended. My father loved his parents and he should be near them. I didn’t want him to be somewhere alone.” (E-p.4)

It is clear that Nancy loves her father till he goes to the graveyard. Another minor character in the novel Coolie is Lakshami who is a dutiful wife and a typical Indian woman introduced by Anand. She works hard and gives support to her husband Hari in his critical days. Anand narrates her dutiful nature in the following words:

“Lakshami came and began to press his knees reverently.” (C-p.207)

One observes that Lakshami is faithful to her husband become she serves him like a nurse.

She is dutiful and sincere as compared to the character of Millicent Kramer in Everyman.

4.4 The Characters in Caste, Class and Race Milieu

Both the writers deal with the segregated people from the main stream of the society due to discrimination on the basis of caste, class and race.

4.4.1 Discrimination on the basis of Caste: Untouchable

The concept of ‘caste’ is used by Mulk Raj Anand in his novel Untouchable. He narrates the series of incidents in the life of Bakha,
the protagonist of the novel. Caste is the oldest phenomenon in the Indian society, which gives rise to discrimination and exploitation. Mulk Raj Anand brings out the drawbacks of the Hindu society and exposes them with the help of his characters such as Bakha, Sohini, Rakha, Hawildar Charat Singh and Ram Charan. The caste milieu in the novel Untouchable occurs at different levels i.e. individual family and social. Anand attempts to depict the sufferings and pains of the hero caused by discrimination on the basis of caste. The characters who belong to the lower castes suffer owing to the orthodox nature of the Hindu society.

At the beginning of the novel, the Anand describes the unhygienic colony of the outcasts in minute details. The scavengers, leatherworkers, water-carriers, washermen, carpenters and other lives in a dirty locality surrounded by the locality of the caste Hindus. Anand describes through various incidents that take place in a single day in the life of Bakha, the protagonist of the novel. From morning till evening he is made to work and experience humiliations at the hands of his masters and the caste Hindus.

Anand narrates one incident in the life of Bakha. After finishing his morning round, he goes to the town. He passes by the fruit stall and sweet meat stall and so on. He buys jilebis, but he forgets to announce his arrival. He by accident happens to touch Lalaji the caste Hindu and pollutes him. Lalaji hurls abuses at Bakha:

“Keep to the side of the road, you, low caste vermin!” He suddenly heard someone shouting at him. “Why don’t you call,
you swine, and announce your approach! Do you know you have touched me and defiled me, you cockeyed son of a bow-legged scorpion! Now I will have to go and take a bath to purify myself. And it was a new dhoti and shirt I put on this morning!” (U-p.38)

The touch of Bakha creates feelings of disgust and hatred in Lalaji. Bakha is abused for touching the caste Hindu. The orthodox Hindus do not allow the low caste people to touch them. They also forbid them to enter the Hindu temples and draw water from the public wells. Even they are not permitted to set foot inside the house of upper caste people. The low caste people especially sweepers depend on the mercy of the high caste Hindus to get food and water. In this way, Anand practice of untouchability in the Hindu Society in colonial Indian. Bakha, after cleaning the road in the Hindu colony, went to collect food from the houses of the upper caste people. However, he gets abuses and curses:

“But, you eater of your master! Why did you sit down on my doorstep, if you had to sit down at all? You have defiled my religion! You should have sat there in the gulley! Now I will have to sprinkle holy water all over the house! You spoiler of my salt! Oh, how terrible! You sweepers have lifted your heads to the sky, nowadays!” (U-p.63)

Anand focuses on the bitter reality in the Indian society. He also describes the caste structure in the Hindu religion. The novel Untouchable is full of events and incidents, which provide the proof
of the suffering, exploitation and humiliation of the low caste people. It is very sad that the untouchables or Dalits are not allowed to take water from the public wells. If they do so, they are abused and punished by the caste Hindus for polluting the water. The low-caste people have to depend on the mercy of the caste Hindus to get water. Gulabo, Sohini, Waziro and others are the representatives the lower-castes who have to beg for water at the side of the well. The following description shows this:

“The outcastes were not allowed to mount the platform surrounding the well, because if they were ever to draw water from it, the Hindu of the upper castes would consider the water polluted.” (U-p.14)

It has been observed that the lower-caste people are denied the right to use water from the public wells meant for the Hindus of the upper castes. In every village, in those days, the lower caste people were ill-treated humiliated and discrimination. Bakha’s father Lakha also suffers from such discriminatory treatment. The writer narrates heart-melting incidents in the life of Lakha. During the illness of Bakha, his father begged the Halam to give medication and save his son. Instead of medicine, Lakha gets abuses only. Anand describes:

_He was red and pale in turn, and shouted at the highest pitch of his voice, “Chanda!! (low caste) by whose orders have you come here? And then you join hands and hold my feet and say you will become my slave forever. You have polluted hundreds of rupees worth of medicine. Will you pay for it?”_ (U-p.73)
It clear that even the doctor also believes in untouchability and pollution complex. Anand describes the prejudiced people with wrong beliefs and vehemently criticizes the caste-based discrimination through the incidents. He considers superstition, lack of education and casteism are the prominent blots on the Hindu community.

4.4.2 Discrimination on the basis of Class: Coolie

In the novel Coolie, Anand brings out the discrimination on the basis of class. Anand focuses on the incidents and events, which depict the suffering and pain of the characters because they belong to the lower class. The class consciousness proves to be detrimental to the development of the society. Class system has certainly proved divisive in Indian society. It has the capacity to affect every section of the society at the economic and political levels. In the class system, one can see the class of the haves and the have nots, the exploiters and the exploited, the rulers and the ruled. This novel contains the characters both British and Indian who exploit the marginalized sections of the society. The problem of class is a universal phenomenon and Anand narrates the problems of the people and characters in his novel Coolie. He explores the connection between class and imperialism on the one hand, and he suggests a complicated motif of caste and classes on the other. His preoccupation with the caste, class and poverty are remarkable parts of the novel. The novel contains many such events and incidents, which narrate the sufferings, pains and agonies of the low class people.
The Hindu-Muslim communal riot narrated by Anand is one of the religion-based events. The communal conflict is the extension of caste conflict. In this manner, caste, communal and class conflicts are interrelated. In India, one can observe the orthodoxy of Hindu religion and capitalistic tendency in the urban society. For instance, Munoo experiences the inferior treatment, exploitation and humiliation from the members of Bibiji’s house. They consider Munoo an outsider and dehumanize him due to his utter poverty and ignorance. Anand depicts the tragic incidents in the life of Munoo. The servant-master relations are effectively brought out by Anand with the help of class-conflict emerging out of the hatred for the poorest of the poor like Munoo. Anand describes:

“Munoo would like to have joined them. So he rushed in and began to perform the morning’s monkey dance. This amused them and they let him play with them, though they had begun by pushing him away, saying, you are a servant, you must not play with us.” (C-p.33)

It is clear that the servants are not supposed to play with masters their children. Anand focuses on the pains of the working class people in this novel. He piongently draws the contrast between the capitalistic class and the working class. Munoo is the representative of the working class. He suffers too much and is very far from the pleasures of life from his childhood. His uncle and aunt use him as a tool to earn money. His journey of life from childhood to youth is full of trials and tribulation. He is in quest for bread and chutney. However his days in the pickle factory are quite happy where he does not experience the
inferior treatment from his master. The happy days do not last long. The owner of the pickle factory becomes bankrupt forcing Munoo once again to become a coolie and earn his living by toiling. After escaping from the tyranny of Bibiji, he begins his work as a coolie in the market place at Daulatpur. The situation of the coolies is worse than the animals in the market. The coolies live like beggars in the place and wait for the work:

“Lalla, Lalla, only an anna a sack. I will take only an anna to bear the sack from here to anywhere!” A third appealed. “Get back, you swine, or I will break your bones!” “Oh, Lallaji! Lallaji!” (C-p.121)

The working class people suffer because of their poverty. The rich people abuse exploit and use them as per their will and necessity. They give ill-treatment to the workers. Anand narrates a number of incidents in the novel, which indicate this. During his days in Bombay, Munoo works with Hari, Ratan and Lakshami. He experiences the ill-treatment from Chimta Sahib. The exploitation of working class people in the company is natural for the capitalist. Both Ratan and Munoo decide to fight against exploitation, cruelty and inhuman treatment by their employer. But they do not get support from other workers. Hari’s wife Lakshami tells Munoo about the real life of the coolies.

The expression ‘we belong to suffering’ indicates the traumatic condition of the workers in Bombay. It also indicates their psychological state of mind. In general, the workers allow their
employer to exploit them because at any cost they want to earn money for their livelihood. Anand depicts such types of miserable stages of the working class people in the novel *Coolie*.

### 4.5 Heroic and Villainous Characters

The characters are usually identified by their actions, functions and types of roles in a novel. The heroes and villains are distinguished not only by their conduct and physical appearance but also by their behavior with other characters in a novel. The hero has a heroic look while the villain has a villainous appearance. One can clearly distinguish between such types of characters by taking into account their roles and functions in the novels.

#### 4.5.1 Heroes:

The novels *Untouchable*, *The Plot Against America*, *Coolie* and *Everyman* contain heroic and villainous characters. The heroes of Anand are adolescent boys who came from the weaker sections of the society. The villainous characters of his novels are usually audits capitalists and the caste Hindu. In Roth’s novel, the heroes are from the well-to do families. The villonous characters are the people who are sometimes their kiths and kins and sometimes the people from the political background.

#### 4.5.1.1 Bakha in *Untouchable*

In the novel *Untouchable*, Bakha is the hero who faces the inexpressible hardships of many kinds and emotional upheavals on
because of the caste ridden society in India. Bakha is the only character among the lower castes who has a desire to fight against the villains, usually the capitalist and the caste Hindu. For instance, Pundit Kali Nath a caste Hindu and the priest of the temple tries to molest Sohine Bakha’s sister while she is cleaning the lavatory in priest’s house. When Bakha realizes that his loveable sister is molested by the priest, he gets enraged. With his clenched fist and flaring eyes he rushes back to the middle of the temple courtyard taking his sister with him. He says:

“The son of a pig!” Bakha exclaimed, “I will go and kill him!”
And he rushed blindly towards the courtyard.” (U-p.55)

Bakha tries to fight against the hypocritical and the immoral people in the society, but unfortunately, due to the evil structure of the society, casticism, the indecent and cynical crowd, he is not able to justify the crime of the priest in front of the people. Anand sets up a new trend by introducing a negative hero in Untouchable. Bakha is incapable of taking an action against the injustice done to his sister. The fire in his mind gets doused due to the rigidity of caste system.

4.5.1.2 Herman in The Plot Against America

In the novel The Plot Against America, Roth depicts the similar features of the hero Herman and his struggle against the antisocial elements. When Herman notices that the Jews in America are suffering because they are Jews, he opposes the followers of Charles A. Lindbergh and takes a strong stand against him. He wants justice
for the Jew people. During his Washington tour, he gets inferior treatment from the Fascist followers so he revolts against them. He says:

“This is that goddamn Lindbergh!” My father said, “All you little fascists are in the saddle now!” (APP-p.82)

Herman and his family suffer in Washington due the inferior treatment from the Fascists and Nazi attitude of Charles A. Lindbergh’s followers, but unfortunately, he cannot justify his stand in front of the police as the social structure does not favor him. He says:

“Officer, you’re not understanding me. Why should our reservation take a back seat to theirs? I was with my family at the Lincoln Memorial. They have the Gettysburg Address up on the wall. You know what the words are that are written there? “All men are created equal.”” (PAA-p.84)

Herman fights for his right to equality with the hotel manager and the police officer, but he is looked down upon by them. He belongs to the Jewish race. The police officer says:

“But that doesn’t mean all hotel reservations are created equal.” The policeman’s voice carried to the bystanders at the edge of the lobby; unable any longer to control themselves, some of them laughed aloud.” (PAA-p.84)
The expression of the police officer clearly gives an idea to the reader that the hero of the novel and his family suffer only because they belong to the Jewish race.

The above discussion reveals that the suffering are came to both the heroes Bakha and Herman. The families of both the heroes suffer from caste and race discrimination in the respective societies. Anand and Roth try to use themes, characters and the burning social issues in their novels to expose the social evils. They also use literature as a means to reform the society as well as to expose the evils in the human being. Both the writers pin their hopes on amelioration of mankind on *karma that* has less importance in the race and caste based social structures. In addition, both the novelist universalizes their characters through the sufferings caused by caste and race.

Herman, the hero of *The Plot Against America* is also sincere, hard working and dutiful in nature. He helps his friends and neighbors. After the death of Seldon’s mother in the communal riot, he strongly supports him and gives him shelter in the house. The following description shows this:

“On that same day my father and Sandy were searching the West Virginia mountains for the country’s one licensed physician to try to get him to give Seldon something to quiet him down.” (PAA-p.426)

The helpful as well as social nature of Herman is worth appreciating. Both the writers introduce similar features of the heroes such as
struggle for humanity, quest for identity and social equality. Besides, one finds some dissimilar features of the heroes considering the heroic deeds and actions in the novels. Bakha suffers more than Herman because his family and social background is orthodox. The high caste Hindus ostracizes him. Bakha is tripped and stoned in his own land. He becomes furious and angry but due to the rigid social structure, he is not able revolt. His problems remain unanswered only because of the rigid social structure and evil attitude of caste Hindus. On the other hand, Herman’s strugglers and sufferings are limited because most of the Jews are harassed during the World War II though they have good social, educational and economic background. At the end of the novel, Roth maintains the poetic justice to convey the proper massages to the reader. All the wicked characters get punishment and the hero Herman becomes victorious towards the end of the novel. But in case of Bakha, Anand depicts the ambiguous state of mind and the problem of untouchability remains unanswered in the novel.

4.5.1.3 Heroes: Coolie

In other novels Coolie and Everyman, Anand and Roth introduce the struggle of heroes from the social point of view. It is true that the characters in Anand’s novels suffer too much due to the social evil and the individual errors as compared to the characters in Roth’s novels. He does not only depict the agony and pain of the characters but also the tragic journey of their life. The hero Munoo gets pain, agony and worst treatment from the society and his relatives. In his childhood, he gets the worst treatment from his uncle and aunt, in Babu Nathu Ram’s house he gets bad treatment from the Bibiji,
Ganpat bothers him in the pickle factory and in Bombay he gets trouble from the owner of factory. In this way, in the novel *Coolie* Anand narrates the series of tragic incidents and exploitation in the life of the hero.

But in the case of the nameless hero, Roth describes only physical weakness and suffering of the nameless hero such as operations and disease in the life of nameless hero. He suffers from hernia at the age nine, in his middle age he undergoes heart operation and in the old age he suffers from back pain.

Roth narrates the physical suffering of the namless hero in the novel.

The other similar aspects of the characterization are noticed between these two-Munoo and the nameless hero. One notices that both the protagonists suffer from loneliness. Munoo is separated from his village friends, Prabha Dyal and Ratan. Therefore, he becomes alone and unhappy in his life. Similarly, the nameless hero suffers due to his own mistakes and gets separated from his two sons and other relatives. All the sufferings become painful to him in the end of his life and he becomes alone. Anand describes the good qualifications of the hero such as his cooperative, faithful and social attitude. The hero Munoo is tragic because in the end of the novel he died due to tuberculosis.

In respect of the injustices and rebellious attitude, one notices the difference between Munoo and the Nameless hero. Anand narrates several incidents which prove the injustice with. For instance, in the
house of Babu Nathu Ram, Munoo suffers and is exploited by Bibiji Uttam Kaur and other members of the house leading to injustice. But in the end, Munoo rebels the injustices as noticed in the following lines:

“Before he knew what he had done he had bitten her on the cheek. “Mother! Oh Mother” Sheila cried.” (C-p.57)

Thus, it is the first rebellion of the hero in the novel against the injustice and the exploitation. Anand narrates the evil social, villainous aspects and struggle of the hero against the capitalistic society through the several incidents in the novel. Munoo is diligent, honest and sincere in nature, but unfortunately, he does not get moral and physical support from the members of his family and other people in the society, therefore, he suffers too much. Munoo goes through different phases before embracing death such as a domestic servant, a factory worker in Bombay and finally as a rickshaw-puller in Simla. During these phases, he gets the company of various people and learns lessons from them.

4.5.1.4 The Nameless Hero in Everyman

Both Roth and Anand focus on the hardworking quality of the hero in their respective novels Everyman and Coolie. They depict the good qualities of the characters such as hard working and cooperative nature. In the case of the nameless hero, he also helps his father in his business to design the jewelry so he tries to make contacts with other
merchants to run the business and get more knowledge about the valuable jewelry:

“He loved being only nine years old and carrying the diamonds in an envelope in his jacket pocket onto the bus to Newark, where the setter and the sizer and the polisher and the watch repairman our father used each sat in a cubbyhole of his own, tucking away on Frelinghuysen Avenue”. (E-p.6)

From the above description, one notices hard working quality of the Nameless hero. The nameless hero is also enjoying the company of various people in the world and learns the lesson from these people. Roth depicts the good qualities of the characters such as hard working and cooperative nature.

He also helps his father in his business to design bring the diamonds, and to sale to the consumers in the city.

In the case of Munoo, the researcher notices the same qualities of cooperative and hard working nature. In the village, he helps his uncle and aunt. Anand narrates:

“He had been grazing cattle on the banks of the Beas, and had begun to play while the buffaloes and cows in his charge had entered the low waters of the marsh” (C-p.1)

From the above extract, one gets a clear idea about hard working and cooperative nature of Munoo. After considering these similar characteristics, the researcher compares these two heroes, their
sufferings and their heroic deeds in the respective novels. Munoo’s sufferings and pains are stronger than the sufferings of the Nameless hero because the social and family background of Munoo is poorer than the Nameless hero. In the company of Prabha Dyal and Parbati, Munoo enjoys some pleasurable days, but due to the tragic separation from them, he again faces the misfortunes and insults. Munoo is one of the most outstanding characters created by Anand in the novel *Coolie*. He is a symbolic representative of the downtrodden, poor in India. The poverty is the biggest social evil in the Indian society. Both writers present the inner feelings, guilt of consciousness and regression of the heroes in the end of the novels. The nameless hero repents about past life, the suffering of his two sons Randy and Lonny because of his divorce from their mother. The nameless hero says:

“You wicked bastards! You sulky fuckers! You condemning little shits! Would everything be different, he asked himself, if I’d been different and done things differently? Would it all be less lonely than it is now? Of course it would! But this is what I did! I am seventy-one. This is the man I have made. This is what I did to get here, and there’s nothing more to be said!” (E-p.97-98)

Roth successfully presents the inner feelings and the guilty consciousness of the hero. Anand also successfully presents the inner feelings and the guilt consciousness of his hero in the novel. On noticing the sufferings of his well wisher Munoo laments:
“Am I really ominous?” He asked himself. My father died when I was born, and then my mother, and I brought misfortune to Prabha, and, it seems, I have brought misfortune to Hari now If I am ominous, why don’t I die?” (C-p.189)

From these lines, Anand clearly emphasizes the thinking of Munoo’s inner feeling about his tragic events in the past. He considers himself responsible for all the misfortunes of his well-wishers. Similarly, the Nameless hero also thinks like Munoo and regrets about his mistakes. It is true that Munoo is not only an Indian coolie, but he is also a represents of the workers in the world. These two heroes are symbolically presented by Anand and Roth to convey the messages of humanity, hard work and morality. Both Anand and Roth break the traditional view of writing and the concept of the ‘hero’. The heroes in their novels are from particular race, caste and class. Anand’s hero is from the poor class while Roth’s hero is from the rich class and the Jewish community only. Both the novelist champion the cause of the segregated class of the people in their sociological novels.

4.5.2 Villains

The villain is known in literature as an antagonist. It is an evil character in a story, whether a historical narrative or a fiction. The villain usually is an antagonist, the character who tends to have a negative effect on other characters. A female villain is sometimes called a villainess.
The villainous characters in the selected novels *The Plot Against America*, *Everyman*, *Untouchable* and *Coolie* are analyzed here in detail. In the novel *The Plot Against America*, Roth introduces the characters such as Charles A. Lindbergh, Walter Winchell Rabbi Lionel Bengelsdorf, Aunt Evelyn, Mayor La Guardina, as villainous characters. The characters such as Charles A. Lindbergh, Rabbi Lionel Bengelsdorf are villainous in nature. Their wicked and harmful activities make the people especially the Jews suffer. Roth depicts the cunning plan of Charles A. Lindbergh to provoke the people against the Jewish community during the election of president. He blames the Jews for pushing America towards war:

“Most important groups who have been pressing this country toward war” a group constituting less than three percent of the population and referred to alternately as “the Jewish people” and the Jewish race”. (PAA-p.15)

Roth focuses on the cunning policy of Lindbergh who uses sensitive subjects for his speech to provoke the voters in America. Lindbergh openly criticizes the Jews in America. The villainous activities of Lalaji in *Untouchable* and Charles A. Lindbergh in *The Plot Against America* one reveals that both the villainous attempt to provoke the people against the particular race and caste such as the low caste and Jewish race respectively. The intention of both villains is same that is to create the problems in the name of caste and the race. They use the caste and race based structures to make the cunning plans. These are some of the common elements in both the villains. However, these are some striking dissimilarities between the two villains with respect to
their education. Lalaji in *Untouchable* is an illiterate person where as Charles. A Lindbergs in *The Plot Against America* an educated person.

In *The Plot Against America* Roth throws light on the national villainous and political leaders to expose the social evil during the World War-II. While in the novel *Untouchable*, Anand depicts the character Lalaji to expose the hypocrisy of the Hindu society.

Rabbi Lionel Bengelsdorf is another villainous character in the novel *The Plot Against America*. He belongs to the religious field. Anand also introduces the same type of villain Pundit Kali Nath in the novel *Untouchable*. Both the characters are wicked and immoral in nature. Being a clergyman, Rabbi Bengelsdorf delivers his weekly sermon on the station WNJR: He talks about the manners and principles of the Jews, but in real life, he is a hypocrite because he participates in the cunning plan of his close friend Charles A. Lindbergh. He addresses the rally of Madison Square Garden and explains the reasons behind Lindbergh’s visits to German. He says:

“*He did not once visit Germany as a sympathizer or a supporter of Hitler’s but rather he traveled each and every time as a secret adviser to the U.S. government.*” (PAA-p.45)

Though he knows the cunning plan of his friend Charles A. Lindbergh, he does not dare to go against him because he enjoys the good post only because of his friend blessings. As a director of OAA
Program, he plans to send the Jew boys far from their community to Kentucky for the training and to work on the farm.

Similarly, the hypocritical Brahmin priest Pundit Kali Nath belongs to the religious field but he uses his power for villainous activities. He uses his religious and social powers to dominate the lower caste people such as Bakha and his sister Sohini.

Anand narrates the social hypocrisy through the character of Pundit Kali Nath. Pundit Kali Nath attempts to rape Sohini, but unfortunately, fails in his evil intention due to the strong protest by Sohini. She narrates the incident:

“*And then when I was bending down to work, he came and held me by my breasts.*” (U-p.54)

Pundit Kali Nath is villainous in nature and uses his religious position to satisfy his sexual hunger.

Lalaji is another villainous character in the novel *Untouchable* He is an orthodox Hindu and belongs to the upper caste. He unnecessarily abuses the lower caste people for polluting him. *Lalaji* says:

“And the tonga-wallah heard a sharp, clear slap through the air.” (U-p.41)
He even goes to the extent to slap Bakha, the scavenger boy. The ‘slap’ is very symbolic. It symbolizes the slap on the entire community of the scavengers. Both the writers emphasize the powerful wicked, inhuman, cruel and anti-social qualities to portray the villainous characters in their novels. Pandit Kalinath and Rabbi Lionel Bengelsdorf are the symbols of hypocrisy in Indian and American society respectively.

4.5.3 Wicked Female Characters

Roth and Anand emphasize the women as villainous characters in their respective novels Untouchable and The Plot Against America.

Gulabo and Aunt Evelyn are the wicked women characters in the novels Untouchable and The Plot Against America respectively. Gulabo is one of the untouchable women characters in the novel Untouchable. Though she belongs to the lower caste, she considers herself superior to the other lower castes in the colony of untouchable because she has immoral relations with a so called high caste Hindu. Being immoral and wicked in nature, she always considers Sohini as a competitor in the immoral world as Sohini is young, beautiful and has well-rounded breasts. She always feels that the mercy of a high Hindu will turn to Sohini hence she abuses her without any reason:

“Think of it! Think of it! You prostitute! Wanton! And your mother hardly dead. Think of laughing in my face, laughing at me who am old enough to be your mother. Bitch! The washerwomen exploded.” (U-p.17)
This incident shows that Gulabo does not like the presence of Sohini. Roth also presents the characters of Evelyn in *The Plot Against America* as villainous. Aunt Evelyn is the sister of Bess, but her nature is different from her sister. Her first marriage proves unhappy because the person whom she married was Italian and the father of three children. After divorce from her first husband, she knows immoral relations with Rabbi Lionel Bengelsdorf though she knows that he is antisocial and anti-Jewish in nature. She contributes to the program of Office of American Absorption (OAA) on the Kentucky farm and helps Charles A Lindbergh’s followers to migrate the young Jews from their families. Her brother-in-law always condemns her activities:

“The woman is an idiot, Bess,” my father said to her, a childish, idiot understands nothing. A dangerous idiot.” (PAA-p.223)

Evelyn’s work is antisocial and proves to be troublesome for her relatives as her own sister too denounces her evil activities. Gulabo and Aunt Evelyn are equal in nature considering their caste and race because both participate in the anti-social activities against their own caste and race respectively. In the end, Aunt Evelyn suffers from the mental disorder as her husband is arrested by FBI.

In *Coolie* and *Everyman*, both the writers portray poverty, hunger and disease. The nameless hero in *Everyman* heroically fights against the various types of physical diseases in his life. The nameless hero suffers from the fear of death and loneliness because he faces death on
the operation bed, broods on his life of suffering, and vain pursuit of earthly pleasures and failed relationships. His physical dissolution, which starts early in his life with boyhood hernia, moving through append, kidney or heart problems, all accompanied by numerous invasive surgeries, like bypasses, renal artery angioplasty, preoccupation with the imminence of death and steadily leads to the protagonist’s mental disintegration. Similarly, Munoo in Coolie suffers from malnutrition which results in tuberculosis. He finally dies in Simla.

Selfishness is similarly noticed. In Coolie, Anand describes selfishness in both the novels and cruel attitude of Daya Ram who does ill-treats and exploits his nephew. The other characters such as Ganapat, Chimta Sahib, and Mrs. Mainwaring are also selfish characters portrayal by Anand in Coolie.

Ganpat and Chimta Sahib are exploiters of the poor and the needy. Anand projects these two characters as arrogant, selfish and unfaithful in nature. Ganpat always uses abusive words for the workers in the factory.

“Come along, you swine! said Ganpt, panting with the exercise of his limbs.” (C-p.77)

Ganpat is a wicked person who proves to be harmful for the innocent characters such as Prabh Dyal, Munoo and other company workers. The poverty, suffering, selfishness and inhumanity are the great evils in the life of human beings and due to these factors. The people are
classified under the titles such as poor and rich. Manu made classification of the society has been the concern of both the novelists while portraying his characters.

4.6 Religious and Political Dimensions of the Characters

The various dimenations of the characters such as religious and social are studied against their respective socio-cultural backgrounds.

4.6.1 Gandhi in *Untouchable* and Lindbergh in *The Plot Against America*

Roth and Anand use ample political references in their novels *The Plot Against America* and *Untouchable*. respectively. Both the novelists try to emphasize the political events of their respective countries through their novels. Anand introduces the characters of Gandhi as a social reformer as well as political leader. Gandhi realizes the cunning plan of the British government and tries to revolt against it with help of Satyagrah and Hunger Strike. Anand focuses on Gandhi as a social worker. Gandhi tries to wash out the blot of untouchability in the Hindu religion. Roth introduces the fictional character of Lindbergh, an anti-Semist, anti Jewish political leader who blames the Jewish community for pressing America to face the World War II. He says:

“Most important groups who have been pressing this country toward war a group constituting less than three percent of the population ad referred to alternately as “the Jewish people” and the Jewish race.” (PAA-p.15)
Gandhi is against the policy of the British government to give separate electorates for the Dalit in the council. He thinks that it will divide the Hindus. Gandhi does not want to alienate the outcastes from the Hindu religion, so he starts to awaken them public speeches on the topic of untouchability. He says:

“Untouchability, whom the government tries to alienate from Hinduism by giving them a separate legal and political status.” (U-p.136)

Both Gandi and Lindbergh deal with the social issues such as untouchable and racial discrimination Gandhi thinks about the unity of nation, on the other hand, Lindbergh wants to prevent his country from entering the World War II. The period of both political leaders shows that they are contemporary to each other. Though the social background and cultural aspects are different, they attempt to eliminate the evils in their respective societies. Both the authors deal with the social criticism and opinions of the representatives of the society. Herman in The Plot Against America is one of the representatives of the Jewish society. He expresses his opinion about Lindbergh:

“This is that goddam Lind berghl” my father said. “All you little fascists are in the saddle now!” (PAA-p.82)

One can understand the critical tone of Herman. Gandhi in Untouchable is also critical about the legal and political statues of the
untouchables if given a separate constituency. He is highly critical about the bad habits of the untouchables. Gandhi says:

_They have, therefore, to purify their lives. They should cultivate the habits of cleanliness, so that on one shall point his finger at them. Some of them are addicted to habits of drinking and gambling of which they must get rid._” (U-p.138)

Gandhi wants the untouchables to purify their lives. He also expects them to cultivate the habits of cleanliness. However, Bakha, the protagonist of the novel is not convinced about Gandhi’s opinions. Bakha thinks that Gandhi is misleading the untouchables He disagrees with Gandhi

_“But now, now the Mahatma is blaming us, Bakha felt. “That is not fair”’. He wanted to forget the last passage that he had heard.”_ (U-p.139)

Bakha is not willing to accept the suggestions and solutions Gandhi regarding the social issues of the untouchables. Barrister R.N. Bashir the scholar, also bitterly criticizes the policy of Gandhi:

_“Gandhi is a humbug, it was saying. “He is fool. He is a hypocrite. In one breath he says he wants to abolish untouchability, in the other he asserts that he is an orthodox Hindu.”_” (U-p.141)

Though both the writers try to describe the contemporary period and political leaders, there are some contradictions. The contrast occurs in
their characterization. Gandhi is a real hero of India and a great freedom fighter of the twentieth century. He is a founding father of Indian nation. Secondly, Mulk Raj Anand only introduces him towards end of the novel as a good character, social reformer, and political leader. Roth also depicts the combination of fictitious and real incidents from Lindbergh’s life, like his victorious record of running an airplane for two days without a stop, his contesting of an election, becoming a president, and his cunning plan against Jews. Roth creates a mixture of characterization with the help of real as well as imaginary events. Though Lindberg wants to keep America out of the World War-II, he agrees to participate in the war after the destruction of Pearl Harbor by Japanese Army. Thus Anand and Roth make use of a very good technique of characterization combining the fictitious and real incidents in the lives of their protagonists.

4.7 The Study of Dalit and Jewish Characters

Mulk Raj Anand is one of the most prolific writers in the contemporary Indo-English writers. He has made a significant contribution to both the novel and short story. He truly shares the feelings of marginalized people in the Indian society. He tries to search for meaning in life as well as presents his reaction against the age-old practice of untouchability in India which symbolizes inhuman classification of people. The caste system in India is based on hierarchies and dominance of one particular caste over other. The relationship of one caste to another is similar to the relationship between master and slave. The inferior-superior relationship of a caste
is stated in terms of its purity. Gandhi himself strongly condemns the evil nature of the caste system in India. He says:

“If untouchability was a part of the Hindu creed, I should decline to call myself a Hindu and most decidedly embrace some other faith, if it satisfied my honest aspirations.” (p.34)

From the above opinion of Gandhi, one comes to know that he bitterly criticizes the caste–based structure of Hindu society. Mulk Raj Anand seems to have been influenced by Gandhi’s social work. Anand himself worked as a sweeper in Sabarmati Ashram before writing his first Untouchable. The creation of Bakha’s character is an extra-ordinary step taken by Anand to depict the plight of the untouchables. Similarly, Roth also makes an attempt to criticize the American society for radical discrimination.

The social reformers, politicians, and great thinkers like Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King and others have attempted to wash out racial-discrimination. But it is unfortunate that still it exists in American and some countries in the west.

The Jews are the worst victims of this henious practice of radical discriminations. Roth attempts to draw the attention of the world community by portray his characters. Herman fights against the discrimination treatment and massacres of the Jews in America during World War II.
4.8 Conclusion

The writers have fully exposed the variety of characters with their qualifications and disqualifications regarding racial and caste discrimination. After taking into account, the features of the comparative study, the weaknesses and strengths in the characters of selected novels are found. Both the writers try to handle the burning issues of the particular caste and races with the help of characters, their actions and roles in the novel. Though the typographical background of the novel is different in the two countries, they carry some universal qualities such pain, sufferings and agony of the human beings. These respective novels contain specific types of characterization in both societies. This chapter contains the comparative study of the characters in a different perspective according the aims and objectives in chapter one.