MIND AND ART OF JOHN ERNST STEINBECK
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF
THE GRAPES OF WRATH

ABSTRACT
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ABSTRACT

This present dissertation entitled “Mind and Art of John Steinbeck With Particular Reference To Socio-Economic Analysis of The Grapes Of Wrath” aims at discovering the element of universal truth which underlies the novel with the aim of assessing the potential of its replication in other countries and worthy of emulation as the novel is traced to his emphasis on the essential goodness and forbearance of the common people, and prophesies a fundamental change to produce equitable social conditions.

It proposes to debunk wide spread criticism of the novel being sentimental, unconvincing and inartistic; and denounced by right - wing minister, corporate farmer, and politicians as immoral, degrading and untruthful. It reasserts the triumph of proletariat cause on the strength of the process of belief and embodies the shape of faith. This hypothesis is designed to place the novel in its proper literary realm by reason of its being a sociological event, a celebrated political cause, or a factual case study. It would review the primary source i.e. the other books of the novelist, historical documents of the time, and journals embracing the phenomena of 1940’s. It also reviews the secondary sources including critical monographs and articles on The Grapes of Wrath. All the important tools common
to literary research - textual criticism, analytical, descriptive and interpretive method to redefine the concept on the basis of discovery of new phenomena obtained through analytical and critical investigation.

Chapter one encompasses social background of the novel, biographical feature and faculty of mind of the novelist. His clairvoyance to penetrate deeper into the social layers of haves and have-nots with sincere endeavour to propound a theory of revolution by mobilizing critical platform to demand for equitable social order. This dissertation proposes to explore critical phenomena of the America 1940’s with its crucial impact on the mind and art of John Steinbeck which went into shaping his mind to embody the significant labour movement of migrant workers. It focuses on the cultivation of particular form and style of his writing suited to proletariat section with a piece of powerful writing through his mighty pen in the year 1939 which eventually won Nobel Prize in 1962. It strives to discern the critical faculty of the novelist with his awesome creative genius in the form of The Grapes of Wrath which became etched in the mind of the people with the commitment to human right.

Chapter two intends to take an account of socio-economic survey of the time with the degree of consciousness of the workers to demand for wages, commensurate with their work force. It is also designed to explore the economic survey a particular area with a view to propounding a theory of revolution to
secure to rightful place of the workers in the market oriented economy where these migrant works are relegated to the back sheet. With the capitalist to apportion the huge benefit under their massive political and social clout.

Chapter three is designed to analyze different novels of the time and historical documents relevant to the period with the view to discover a pattern governing the relation between workers and capitalist with the avowed aim to look for solution of socio-economic inequality among the people. It seeks to revisit a set of criticism of the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* by the forces opposed to proletariat.

Chapter four intends to concentrate to analyze the form and style of the novel to discover its appropriateness and appeal to the common masses to galvanize them on a socio-political platform to assert their right to livelihood with dignity and respect.

Chapter five is the conclusion which tends to philosophies the masterly art of novel which may organize the people on a common platform to accomplish the mission of egalitarian society. It also intends to test the hypothesis that the novel like *The Grapes of Wrath* can be used as a powerful instrument for social change in a country where the economic disparity grows wider with each passing day in a climate of economic liberalization and global expansion.

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