

# Historical Consciousness and Gandhian Ideals in Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*

**Dr. Shrikant Jitendra Jadhav**

Assistant Professor, Department of English

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Mahavidyalaya, Chh. Sambhajinagar

[sj189472@gmail.com](mailto:sj189472@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** *Raja Rao's Kanthapura is a powerful novel that blends history, myth, and politics to depict India's struggle for independence. This paper explores how Gandhian ideals, such as non-violence, truth, and self-reliance, shape the historical consciousness of the villagers in Kanthapura. Through the character of Moorthy and the collective actions of the community, the novel highlights the impact of Gandhi's movement on rural India. It also examines how Raja Rao uses oral storytelling and folklore to create a shared sense of history and identity. By focusing on the role of women and the village as a microcosm of the nation, the paper shows how Kanthapura reimagines history from the perspective of ordinary people. Ultimately, the novel serves as both a historical document and a literary masterpiece, offering a unique lens into India's fight for freedom.*

**Keywords:** History, Freedom, Gandhian Era, Independence, Non-violence, etc

