

Social Protest in the Plays of Vijay Tendulkar

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Abstract: *The article examines how social critique and theatrical elements converge together to create powerful emotional experiences throughout Vijay Tendulkar's theatrical works which he created as a revolutionary playwright in contemporary Indian theater. The research demonstrates that Tendulkar's entire theatrical output functions as a "theatre of diagnostic protest" because it abandoned the escapist and romanticized theatrical conventions which defined early twentieth-century Marathi theatrical traditions. The article demonstrates how Tendulkar removes Indian middle class moral values through his text analysis which includes Shantata! Court ChaluAahe (1967) Ghashiram Kotwal (1972) and Kanyadaan (1983). Theatrical works by Tendulkar create obstacles for established social customs while they force audiences to analyze how power operates within Indian communities. His works provide a direct view of human suffering which creates vital discussions about social injustice and equality issues. Through his powerful narratives and compelling characters, Tendulkar forces audiences to confront uncomfortable truths about the oppressive systems that govern their lives. Theatrical works of Tendulkar create awareness of social issues which make his plays relevant to audiences while they initiate essential discussions about necessary societal transformations in India.*

The analysis focuses on Tendulkar's application of "theatre of cruelty" because he uses the stage as a space that restricts movement while functions as an area for monitoring and conducting questioning. The study investigates his specific methodology in portraying the "vulture-like" aggression of social institutions which force their members to suffer through systemic injustice that targets women and subaltern groups. The article investigates how Kanyadaan received mixed reviews because Tendulkar used his protest to show how superficial liberalism fails to heal deep-rooted psychological wounds that exist within the caste system. The study shows that Tendulkar maintains his relevance because he presents an unfiltered view of society which operates under the "will to power" that compels viewers to face their moral responsibilities in an uncomfortable manner..

Keywords: Vijay Tendulkar, Social Protest, Marathi Drama, Patriarchy, Caste Politics, Institutional Violence