

Examining Bama Faustina Soosairaj's Vanmam from a Sociological Point of View

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Abstract

The Tamil word "vanmam" means "revenge" or "vengeance." A sociological approach to *Vanmam* examines the cultural and social dimensions of the idea of revenge within the framework of caste system. Renowned Tamil writer Bama is well known for her autobiographical pieces, such as "Karukku" and "Vanmam." The fight of Dalits for empowerment and resistance is depicted in Bama's work. The sociocultural background of caste-based violence and discrimination is examined in this novel in relation to how "Vanmam" is reflected. The characters struggle with their identities and the ways that society at large marginalizes and shuns them. It provides a summary of the psychological and emotional facets of identity creation through a thorough reading of the book. It also draws attention to the Dalits' cultural and religious traditions. This article uses a qualitative research approach to analyze the text in light of the socio-cultural concerns. It focuses on the experiences of Dalits in Tamil society in particular. It sheds light on the difficulties and resiliency faced by marginalized populations in their pursuit of equality and social justice.

Keywords: Revenge, Dalit, Society, Caste, Autobiography

Introduction

Bama's "Vanmam" is a powerful literary masterpiece that addresses a variety of societal issues. The novel highlights the injustices and hardships that marginalized communities confront. Caste inequality is a major socioeconomic issue portrayed in "Vanmam". Bama Faustina Mary is a notable Tamil writer from India, commonly known by her pen name. Bama. Born in 1958 to a Dalit (previously known as "untouchable") household, she endured social discrimination and prejudice at a young age. Her encounters with caste-related discrimination Bama depicts the stark realities of the hierarchical caste system and its devastating consequences. Impact on the life of Dalits. Through fascinating characters and heartbreaking situations, she draws attention highlight the deep-rooted biases and atrocities suffered by Dalits, questioning the existing societal order. Another important problem addressed in the story is gender inequality. Bama investigates the various types of injustice and oppression faced by women, particularly Dalit women. She emphasizes the interconnectedness of caste and gender, underlining their dual burden as victims of caste-based discrimination and patriarchal norms. Bama's representation of strong female characters emphasizes the importance of gender

fairness and empowerment.”Vanmam” also highlights the economic oppression that Dalits and other oppressed people endure. Bama reveals how the wealthy upper castes take advantage of the work The assets of the marginalized groups, sustaining a vicious cycle of deprivation and poverty. Giving voice to the hopes and hardships of the disenfranchised, she questions the social institutions that sustain economic inequality. The novel also touches on the subjects of social mobility and education. Bama is aware of how education may break the bonds of tyranny and improve society. She draws attention to the challenges Dalits experience in obtaining high quality education and the life-changing potential it offers. The story of Bama promotes the value of education as a possible catalyst for advancement and societal change.

Novel’s Social Context

“Vanmam,” a novel by Bama, illuminates a number of socioeconomic problems that are common in Tamil Nadu, especially for the Dalit group. It narrates the compelling tale of a Dalit family’s fight against violence, poverty, and caste oppression. To offer a thorough and discerning examination of the socio-economic issues portrayed in “Vanmam,” let us delve into several significant themes and allusions found within the book. Anandhi, S. “Power, Poverty, and Politics: An Inquiry into Dalit Women’s Lives in Tamil Madras.” explains that the Dalit community’s financial hardships are a major issue in the book. Bama depicts the harsh reality of exploitation and poverty, which feeds a never-ending circle of marginalization. The protagonists in “Vanmam” struggle with the lack of options for training, jobs, education, fair wages, inequality.

Jayanthi, D., and Suguna, S., “Dalit Women: Vicious Circle of Sufferings.”Bama also explores the aspects of oppression that are gendered in the Dalit community. She depicts the struggles that Dalit women endure because they are double marginalized because of their caste.

The narrative emphasizes their hardships with restricted agency, domestic abuse, and being denied fundamental rights. The work delves into the subject of physical and psychological violence perpetrated on the Dalit minority. In Bama, incidents of caste-based violence—such as the historic Kilvenmani massacre—and the ensuing fight for justice are shown. The film “Vanmam” poses important queries regarding human rights violations and the pursuit of social justice. In Jeffrey, R., “The Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front and the Kilvenmani Social Struggle.” Modern South Asia.

Novel Characters Reflecting Social Issues

The autobiographical book sheds attention on a number of societal issues that are widespread in Indian society, particularly among the Dalit minority. The book, written by Dalit activist and author Bama, reveals the injustices and oppression that Dalits experience in Tamil Nadu. The following are a few societal issues that Vanmam addresses:

- **Caste Discrimination:** The book illustrates in graphic detail the pervasive caste discrimination that Dalits, especially those of the Paraiyar community, must endure in the form of various forms of abuse and segregation. It reveals how Dalits are denied opportunities for social mobility and basic human rights by the hierarchical caste system, which in turn perpetuates societal inequities. Nallathambi, the story’s protagonist, stands in for the oppressed and marginalized Dalit population. Nallathambi faces prejudice based on caste and works to justice and inequality.
- **Untouchability:** Bama clarifies the untouchable custom, in which Dalits are shunned by society and viewed as impure. Vanmam describes incidents when Dalits are deprived of access to temples, kept out of public places, and made to perform demeaning jobs just because of their caste. Azhagi, the spouse of Nallathambi, is a significant feminine figure as well. Azhagi represents the fortitude and tenacity of Dalit women who must contend with numerous forms of

untouchability and injustice. She fights for Nallathambi's right to justice throughout the entire book.

- **Gender Inequality:** The book highlights the dual oppression Dalit women experience by examining the intersections of gender and caste. Bama tells the stories of Dalit women who, because of their gender and caste, endure systemic discrimination, assault, and exploitation. As a powerful female character, Azhagi stands for gender inequity in her own community.
- **Education Barriers:** Vanmam draws attention to the major obstacles Dalit children must overcome in order to receive a high-quality education. Bama talks about how prejudice in schools deprives Dalit pupils of equal opportunity, limiting and reiterating social injustices.
- **Economic Exploitation:** Dalits are subjected to economic exploitation, which is discussed in the book. In Bama's portrayal, the unjust salaries, harsh labor methods, and limited opportunities for advancement that sustain the poverty cycle in Dalit communities are highlighted. Boominathan is a progressive politician who supports the rights of Dalits. Boominathan teams up with Nallathambi to confront societal injustices and the prevailing upper-caste power structure.
- **Vanmam highlights Dalits' cultural marginalization:** since dominant castes frequently suppress or appropriate their customs, practices, and voices. Bama examines the challenge Dalits have in defending their cultural identity and overcoming prejudice in society.

In Conclusion

These characters and others help investigate and address societal issues like socioeconomic disparity, caste discrimination, untouchability, and the denial of fundamental human rights experienced by underprivileged groups in society. Bama's *Vanmam* highlights the terrible realities that Dalits in Indian society must contend with by depicting these societal issues. For the underprivileged Dalit community, the book is an effective means of promoting social justice and equality by igniting debates and increasing awareness. Bama's writings, including "*Vanmam*," generally address societal issues such female inequity, prejudice, and violence based on caste. She advances a more inclusive and equal society by drawing attention to these concerns and adding to the continuing conversation on social justice.

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