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### PERCEPTION OF VALUES IN WRITINGS OF D. H. LAWRENCE

Kawaljeet Kaur\*<sup>1</sup>, Dr. M.K. Jain<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Research scholar, Dept. of English, Mewar University (Chhitorgarh), Rajasthan.

<sup>2</sup> Professor & HOD(AS&H), HRIT, Ghaziabad, UP.

#### ABSTRACT

Human values are the need of the hour; in this era of globalization everyone is involved in the race towards success. D. H. Lawrence is a great writer of 20<sup>th</sup> century and has great philosophical concepts in his writings. He was born at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire. At that time industrialization was at its peak. Lawrence was devoid of materialistic world. Mere existence for life and running behind success is not only truth of life. His writings are very close to the human values and concept of love and unity. This paper throws light on the core concept of Lawrence's vision of universe. Through this paper effort has been made to discuss the need of humanity with progress in the society. In his writings through his characters he tried to give rebirth to pre-existing concept of humanity. We can observe the relationships of the characters of the novels, which ultimately lead to one supreme God.

**Keywords:** Relationships, Human Ethic and Values, Humanity, Industrialization, God, Universe.

#### INTRODUCTION

In today's cut-throat competition human values are lost somewhere. Nobody bother about the feelings, expression, love, care and spirituality. For today's man it's just waste of time. But man is deliberately unaware of the fact that without values, success cannot be cherished. Human values are beliefs, feelings and attitudes towards things, situations or other people. True happiness and true meaning of success in the life lie behind the mental peace and satisfaction of the mind. Human values lead us towards freedom, peace, fulfillment and happiness. We live life with different relations in the society. All human relationships are important in one or the other way. We are not enjoying the vitality and rejuvenation of the life-rejuvenated happiness, love feelings and expressions. Crying over the failure of the success, gives loss to the real meaning of the life. We all are connected to the living universe. Some of the concepts given by D.H. Lawrence in his writings has given us expression to ponder about human values, and paved path towards humanity and spirituality.

D.H. Lawrence is the eminent and versatile writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. D.H. Lawrence is today admired by many for his unsurpassed writings and expressions for all the relations of the universe. Lawrence is best known for his novels but he was also a good poet, story writer, essayist and critic. He is definitely among the great modern novelist like James Joyce, Marcel Proust, Faulkner, Mann, Kafka and others. He is a pioneer of new kind of imagination to poetic fiction, psycho-analytical fiction. He presents the revolt against reason. His novels have been

highly controversial subject. Many critics criticized his work. According to Ford Madox Hueffer, his first novel, The White Peacock (1911) had “every fault that the English novel can have”. Hueffer had said ‘erotic’ and ‘bad art’ for the ‘The Trespasser’, the second novel, published in 1912. He is a novelist enjoying great fame and admiration after his death as dozens of critical studies, biographies and other reviews have recognized him as the leading English novelist of this century.

A close study of his novels reveals a morality based on author’s vision of the universe. In the book Aspects of the Novel, E.M. Forster aptly places Lawrence alongside with the novelist, Dostoevsky and Herman Melville, whom he calls the prophetic novelists. According to Foster, the theme of the prophetic novelist is “the Universe”. But, what is of supreme importance in the world is life. Man’s life is of greatest importance to him. Lawrence disliked materialistic attitudes and had all admiration for the instinctive sensuous life of the men folk. Flowers are everywhere in his novels and he is very critical about the ugliness of industrial environment. Mere existence is not important as life, what matters to him is to be the “whole man alive”

Man is what his relationships are. The quality of man’s relationships determines the quality of his life. The central clue to human life, according to Lawrence, is the relation between man and woman. This relationship is, however, subject to constant change. It is never stagnant. But it is, and will always remain, the most important relationship for humanity. He is one of those great novelists who write out their inner compulsions and urges and pour into their works, their own spiritual and emotional frustrations, their own attitudes and vision of life. Apart from his sexual impulse man has his creative or religious impulse. The creative or religious impulse is

“The pure disinterested craving of human male to make something wonderful, out of his own soul’s faith and delight, which starts everything going.”<sup>[3]</sup>

“Man is great according as his relation to the living universe is vast and vital.”<sup>[4]</sup>

Lawrence believed that God is immersed in Creation, and it is futile to separate or distinguish him from his creation. His Concept of God can help us to understand his view of man portion in the universe.

Throughout his writing he has shown images of man based on relations with man, woman and universe as well. The White peacock is a portrait of the universal health and vitality, a song in praise of the beauty of the world. It offers a panoramic view of the seasons- summer, autumn, winter and spring- and within this large framework, we have men, animals and plants, animals and all plants, all presented in a homogenous whole. In this novel Lawrence indicates that to be alive is better than to be dead and extinct. Certainly there is death in the life of every one of us. There is death everyday. We are constantly dying to something or the other- old ideas, old hopes, old friendships. But at the same time, there is constant rebirth in the life of every observable thing and person. In fact, one of the reasons why we do not experience the joy of the new birth is

that we do not know how to die- how to let the things those are dying in our lives recede into the past and vanish. We wish to hold onto the skeleton of our hopes- some idea, love or ambition. We cry, we fret, and we pray that the same should continue. Even when we know that we cannot have it longer, we project a mental picture of that past and nurse the outdated memories in our heart. This is eternal death, for, in this way we only live in the company of the dead. But to accept the death of the dying things is the height of the wisdom. Once we do so, the dead past is behind us. We finish it, and we are ready for the new.

Graham Hough comments-

“The *White Peacock* is the actual contemporary product of the period which sons and lovers describe. Together they represent the flowering and exhaustion of Lawrence’s youth.”<sup>[5]</sup>

“Lawrence’s focus in the *Sons and Lovers* is not only the stiff shape or outline of his characters but on the actual shimmer of life as exposed in the relationship to the living universe around them.”<sup>[6]</sup>

D. H. Lawrence vision of life finds expression in his novels in terms of relationships and they can be fully appreciated only when they are seen as imaginatively and artistically organized revelation of man’s relationship to his circumvent universe.

His works are autobiographical in nature. *Sons and lovers* present the picture of his early family life. In the novel, Paul Morel is Lawrence himself and his parents can be identified as the parents of Lawrence. In *The White Peacock* also, his parents are present in the form of the Beradsells, Mrs Beardsell’s is Lawrence’s own mother.

He was born in the Nottingham of Eastwood. At the time of Lawrence’s birth, Eastwood was still a beautiful village, situated on the slopes of hill. Lawrence was able to establish intimate relationships with his physical and social environment which he considers to be his first step towards more intimate relationships. It was a world of harmony and the note of discord was sounded only by the women folk, who were materialistic and insensitive to the natural beauty. This further conditioned his views on marriage and sex relations.

The mines, where his father worked, were always in Lawrence’s consciousness, perhaps providing the symbol of darkness, he used so often in his works. Lawrence disliked materialistic attitudes and had all admiration for the instinctive sensuous life of men folk. His relationship with his social and physical environment was one of harmony while that of the women folk was that of discord. Flowers are everywhere in his novels and he is ever critical of the ugliness of the industrial environment. In his later life he wrote that the colliers “ brought with them above ground the curious intimacy of the mine, the naked sort of contact, and if I think of my childhood it is always as if there was a lustrous sort of inner darkness like the glass of coal in which we moved and had our being.”

The war of 1914-18 affected Lawrence profoundly. During the war under the impact of science and rationalism, religious faith was weak-ended, moral and ethical values no longer remained absolute with the loss of faith in the established order, man felt “orphaned and defrauded”. Man became in capable of fine and subtle emotional responses. After the war, Lawrence began his “savage pilgrimage” in search of amore fulfilling mode of life than industrial western civilization could offer.

Perpetual divergences run throughout the creations such as light and darkness, male and female, love and hate and the compromise of such opposites or polarities is essential for vital fulfillment of men and women and tragedy occurs when there is lack of such compromise. In a letter to A.W. Mcleod, 2 June, 1914 Lawrence himself defines this man and women relationships.

“I think the only re-sourcing of art, revivifying it, is to make it more the joint work of man and woman. I think the one thing to do, is for men to have courage to draw nearer to women, expose themselves to them, and be altered by the and for women to accept and admit men. This is the start-by bringing themselves together men and women. Revealing themselves each to the other, gaining great blind knowledge and suffering and joy, which it will take a big further lapse of civilization to exploits and works out. Because the source of all life and knowledge is in man and woman, and source of all living is in the interchange and the meeting and mingling of these two, man-life and woman-life, man- knowledge and woman-knowledge, man-being and woman-being.”<sup>[7]</sup>

Lawrence’s last novel Lady Chatterley’s lover was banned in 1928. He died in Venice in 1930 at the age of 44. His death left behind the rejuvenating concept of love, feelings, humanity, spirituality and ultimate believe and truth of god. In today’s era there is great need for this all to attain the peace for humanity.

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