

## **THE NOVEL “LAST MAN IN TOWER”: UNRAVELLING THE DARKER SIDE OF GLOBALISATION**

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**Abstract:** The novel by Aravind Adiga clearly shows the haunting sides of globalisation, the aspect of globalisation does have positive sides attached as it improves the employability, the increase in the standard of living, high end level of technology. But contradictory to this globalisation also has its negative side, it is always not a blessing, it actually is a bane in the guise of boon. Culturally it is a new form of colonization, many old forms traditions are at the verge of detrimental threat due to globalisation. This paper is an attempt to show the darker aspects of globalisation, through the novel “Last Man In Tower” Masterji (Yogesh.A.Murthy) shows all the qualities of anti-globalizer, who does not give up on the innateness of the identity he belongs to. Dharmen Shah subsequently is the antagonist who tries to bring up a skyscraper in a peaceful habitat like Vishram Society, the booming real estate due to globalisation and urbanisation of Mumbai is depicted in a very striking manner.

**Keywords:** Culturally, Colonisation, Detrimental, Innateness.

**Introduction:** The era of globalization is generally viewed by world economists and social scientists to have emerged after 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the rise, in the 1990s, of the United States as lone remaining superpower. The process of globalization in India began with the introducing of the New Economic Policy in 1991 after pursuing the import substitution for nearly 40 years. The globalization and liberalization and privatization are interconnected and negative impact is painted in the novel by Aravind Adiga “Last Man In Tower” can be analysed with the perspectives of the other side of globalisation. The aspect of globalisation is always portrayed in a highly positive manner, there by the negatives are always smartly neglected. Yes, globalisation does bring people closer to what extent? This rhetoric question can be answered when we go through the novel, The story revolves around the protagonist Yogesh.A.Murthy, who is a retired school teacher and is called Masterji out of love and reverence, Masterji resides in Vishram Society in Mumbai. As globalisation has taken it giant steps in economy of India, the huge monster is to gobble the Vishram Society .The darker side of the booming real estate business due to globalisation, can be seen through Dharmen Shah and his ‘sinuous left hand’ Shanmugam the antagonist of the novel who bring down a peaceful habitat such as Vishram Society, it is known for peaceful existence as people from all community reside, The Pinto’s, Georgina Rego, Masterji with other youngsters (family) lived happily. Adiga tries to habitate his building with a people from different backgrounds. Of all that Sanjiv and Sangeeta Puri, a middle-aged Hindu family whose 18-year-old child has Down’s syndrome; Ramesh Ajwani, father of two, fickle real estate agent and an unsuccessful stockbroker. Georgina Rego, a “battleship” active social worker who is vociferous to put down Shah’s domination to destroy Vishram Society, Yogesh A Murthy or “Masterji”, a retired schoolteacher who, has lost his wife to illness and his daughter to an accident, lives a lonely life and spends most of his time playing with cubics and giving lessons to the residents children in his spare time. Masterji is the central character - it wouldn’t be an exaggeration - because it is only he that refuses What’s offer . Masterji is the eponymous “last man”.

Shah's tricks are not obvious: those who agree his offers he would be “sweeteners”; but to those who rejected it or delayed it, he threatened them and the worst is yet to be confronted when Masterji is adamant and desires to live and die the flat, the apartment his family lived in: “a man's past keeps growing, even when his future has come to a full stop.” It is the nostalgia and memories attached with his wife and daughter which he doesn't want to sell. He thinks it is his rights to hold back the house and

it is only his sole decision which actually seems to be rational. The clash between globalisation and anti-globalisation becomes evident through the fight waged by Masterji who has nothing to lose.

It initially seems so, the apartment may be shattering down, but Masterji's deeds evoke a strong sense of confidence to fight the odds of social. Shah and Shanmugam try to bring people under them through all the possible means be it, legal and illegal forces. Shah acts like the serpentine, who tries to embrace through domination where in he creates a hoax pressure on Masterji. As the story takes on it seems that Shah subsequently wants to create an intense situation as to gobble up every land he overcomes: "Look, how this city never stops growing, rubble ... plants, mulch, left to themselves, start slurping up sea, edging towards the other end of the bay like a snake's tongue, hissing through salt water, there is more land here, more land."

Masterji's stance on what is right puts him more into a chaotic situation, even his best friends ditch him. Even the Pinto's, who initially supported him undoubtedly has turned totally against him and says what is he voicing his opinion against for "The earth, in infinite space. A point on it was the city of Mumbai. A point on that was Vishram Society. And that point was his." they even comment by saying that "He is no lesser than Shah".

Mary, the cleaning lady and Ram Khare, the security guard are under the greatest threat as they are the one who is at the verge of losing their jobs to the globalised world, as they do not have any special skills to withstand the pressure posed by the globalised world.

Masterji is totally lost in the world, which once belonged to him, tends to feels himself as an alien the sense of alienation becomes complex when he wonders: "What is being done to this city in the name of progress?"

The tower is also symbolic as it tries bring in a dream of utopian dream of living a luxurious life which right next to slum. The city itself has come a long way being a fishing paradise to a cosmopolitan domain has lost many of the innate cultural identity. The booming red light area, gothic buildings have seen rapid changes, which has extensively become one of the problems the unhygienic living, the claustrophobic living as to urbanisation. The threat even on family system, the emergence of nuclear families have started an adulterous and liaison living leading to break in ethical values which is put at the detrimental threat. Masterji's fight is a greater one but it is wasted he is willful and strong to hold the post modernity on globalization as he only aspires and his demand is not fulfilled. In words of Christopher Cyril, "But it is also the nobility and willfulness of one who has nothing more to lose".

The way in which Adiga has narrated the problems of society is similar to Dickensian form of narration. Dickens tried to show the loopholes of industrialised society so is Adiga trying to bring the flaws of a globalised Mumbai.

**Conclusion:** *Last Man in Tower*' is a depiction of globalization and socio economic culture of today's Mumbai and its portrayal in vivid manner and the elucidation of mundane life. The other side of Mumbai which is engulfed by the real estate and the builder-politician nexus, the worst kind of habitation in Mumbai, the claustrophobic living of people, the degradation of moral and ethical values due the intervening of Globalisation has impacted the lives of people very insidiously. The problem of urbanisation is another issue haunting the city ,which has given birth to hazardous problems of immigrants from it's belly.

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