

## DIVULGING OF WOMEN'S PREDICAMENT AND HEEDLESSNESS OF ADMINISTRATION THROUGH R. K. LAXMAN'S CARTOONS

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### ABSTRACT

*In the present century, cartoons as an authentic material used to teach language and literature. R. K. Laxman was one of the well-known cartoonists in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Laxman's cartoons can be studied by applying various aspects of pragmatics, theoretical and grammatical aspects. Laxman's cartoons are pregnant with multiple dimensions such as syntactic, semantic, structural, etc. Laxman as a cartoonist has disclosed as well as unveiled and satirised ongoing issues of his time. The present research paper is going to throw light on the women's predicament and heedless attitude of the administrators, administration and socio-political leaders.*

**Keywords:** - divulging, predicament, heedlessness.



*Learn to balance it properly, silly girl! Remember, soon you will have to start working!*

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Figure-1

**Methodology:** - For the present research paper, the researcher has used explorative method

This is a cartoon about women's predicament and child labour. However, the cartoonist does not pass explicit or direct comments on the practice of women's condition and their ongoing problems, and child labour in India. It is also noted that predicament of women differs from community to community, society to society and caste to caste. A journalist will do that in an article or news item for a newspaper. Such an article or news item will be an example of observance of the maxim of quantity, relation and manner. The writer of an article on women's quandary and child labour will usually criticize the social practice overtly. He or she will provide as much information about women and their ongoing situation and child labour or related issue as is required. In other words, s/he will observe the quantity maxim. The article will also observe the quality maxim in the sense that the author will provide evidence for his/ her criticism of the practice of women's condition heedless attitude of administrators and child labour. Every bit of information in the article will be relevant. There will be no superfluous or irrelevant data provided in the article. Things will be clearly stated. On the other hand, a cartoon on women's terrible condition and child labour like this one is an oblique or indirect comment on these evil practices. Interestingly enough, it is this opaqueness makes a cartoon a more powerful tool of social criticism. This opaqueness is result of violation of the quantity maxim, because the cartoonist provides less information than what is required. However, this so-called insufficient information is adequate or enough for a socially aware or socially well-informed reader to understand the implied message encoded in the cartoon. The cartoonist violates yet another maxim, which is the maxim of relation. The coherence between social reality on the one hand and the focus of the cartoon on the other is not very obvious. The reader has to discover the hidden connectedness using knowledge of social life, knowledge of people and knowledge of the rules of logic. The apparent irrelevance becomes a deep level relevance the moment a reader finds connection between the actual reality out there and virtual reality in the cartoon. The cartoon under present scrutiny violates the last maxim of the cooperative principle, which is the maxim of manner. Since the purpose of the cartoon is not to criticize with malice, he resorts to indirectness and a bit of ambiguity.

It is this violation of the three maxims of cooperative principle which enables the cartoonist to gently draw the attention of the readers to certain social follies and foibles such as women's plight, carelessness of administrators and child labour. A cartoonist violates the cooperative principle in such a beautiful way that even the people responsible for child

labour, women from all strata of life, inattentive nature of administration appreciate the skill of the cartoonist and the gentle and subtle criticism.



*I am proud of the spectacular transformations and improvements which are taking place among women of India.*

Figure-2

The present cartoon focuses on the predicament of women in India. India is a land of contradictions and paradoxes. There are astronomically rich people and there are people who don't get even one meal a day. The gulf between the rich and the poor is very big. India is a patriarchal society. Men play a dominant role in the family and women are quite submissive, women especially those in the rural areas. They work very hard. They do the cooking, washing, cleaning. They look after the family. When they finish household chores, they work very hard on farms. Those who do not hold any agricultural land work as labourers, domestic helpers. Many of them work in construction industry. What is more painful to note is that many of them do manual work and carry their children with them. They are subjected to hard work and maltreatment.

The cartoon shows some women working quite hard on a construction. We see one woman mixing sand, cement and water with a shovel. Behind her there is another woman who is carrying her baby in her arm and carrying a load of mixed cement and sand on her head. A third woman is climbing up a stair or a ladder and carrying an iron basket filled with sand and

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cement. It is only the women who are shown working in the picture. The men in the picture are not working. One man is reading a newspaper and other men are looking at the woman who is climbing up a ladder. On the one hand, we have not succeeded in improving the plight of women in general and on the other, India boasts of bagging miss universe and miss world crowns. The heedlessness of administration is adding their share in the deterioration of women in India. The governmental policies are not reaching to the women who are living in the village area.

There is a match between the newspaper heading (Miss Universe, Miss World) and the caption of the cartoon (I am proud of the spectacular transformations and improvements which are taking place among women of India). It is ironic that this transformation and improvement is happening among elite class women alone. When we juxtapose the newspaper heading and caption of the cartoon, we notice parity between the two. At one level, the cartoon satisfies the quality maxim. In other words, when we read the newspaper headline and the cartoon caption, we realize that the speaker is telling the truth because miss universe and miss world awards are indications of some kind of transformation and improvement in the position and role of women in India. But when we juxtapose the cartoon caption and what the women in the picture are doing, we can say that the speaker is telling a lie because what the women in the picture are doing does not support the claim that there is transformation and improvement in the condition of women in India. In this latter sense, one can say that the cartoon violates the quality maxim. Another maxim that the cartoon violates is the maxim of manner. The speaker's proposition is positive but the speaker's implication is negative. In other words, he says that there is improvement, but in fact, he means that there is no improvement. The disparity between the elite class women and rural class women is increasing day by day very fastly. The government schemes and policies are not directly getting to the rural class women. It is observed that years together before they are living in the poverty, doing hard work for the survival of their family is not changed yet. The administrative heedlessness is been increasing day by day. At the same time socio-political leaders are not showing deep interest in the development of women from all the walks of life.

At the end, the researcher wants to focus on the universal quality of the art of cartooning. Laxman as a great cartoonist focuses and exposes hidden realities like women's predicament, carelessness of administration and administrative officers child labour, etc., double face, and socio-political follies and foibles. It is the skill of the cartoonist, who divulges and criticises without hurting the hearts of the people who are directly and indirectly responsible for this dying reality of the society. Laxman's cartoons brings smile on the faces that are directly and indirectly responsible for social problems and calamities.



### CONCLUSIONS: -

At the end, the researcher wants to note that the Laxman as a great observer of socio-political realities focuses on the ongoing realities of present century. The cartoonist tries to bring into light real picture of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He focuses on unending hard work of women, negligence of administrative officers and socio-political leaders, etc. The intention of the cartoonist is not only to focus on the reality but also to give direct as well as indirect message to all responsible political leaders and administrative officers to look into these matters as seriously as possible. A cartoonist expects to take possible and important steps to develop the present condition of all the neglected people of the society.

### REFERENCE

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