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THE AGONY OF MINORITIES IN BANGLADESH PORTRAYED IN THE NOVEL OF TASLIMA NASRIN' "LAJJA"



Rushindar Apparao Dabhade

Research Student,
TGT. (Eng.) Kendriya Vidyalaya, Aurangabad.
E-mail Id: rushindar1983@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research deals with the agony of minorities in Bangladesh portrayed by the world famous author Taslima Nasrin through her most controversial novel 'Lajja'. She didn't want to criticize or favour any religion through the novel. The novel succeeded to attract worldwide attention because of the burning issues of the minorities of Bangladesh. The fundamentalists banned the novel in Bangladesh within 6 months and issued a fatwa against her. She was exiled from the country but she didn't take back her stand. Through the novel, Nasrin wanted to give a very strong message to a majority community to respect the people of minorities. She also wanted to remind the government that it's the prime duty of the government to protect all the citizens besides their caste and religion.

Nasrin starts her novel with 'let humanity be the other name of religion'. She perfectly portrayed the agonies and suffering of minorities in the different parts of Bangladesh during the various movements, in the name of religion. The Muslims and Hindu of Bangla were brought together by their Bengali identity

and fought together for their liberation. But the aftermath of the demolition of Babri Masjid inflicted a series of barbaric tyranny in Bangladesh against the Hindu minority, who were soon labelled as 'others'. Hindus were maltreated in Bangladesh and a part of its citizen was tortured only because they belonged to Hindu community. The focus of the novel is limited to Datta's family. Who were nationalists and loved their country like their mother. The family sacrificed a lot, many of the relatives told them to leave the country but they didn't agree. At last, the Sudhamoy was helpless and agreed to leave for India. This paper reveals the agonies and the sufferings of the Hindu minorities and the problems of identity crises they suffer.

KEYWORDS

Minority, Discrimination, Fanaticism, Atrocities, and Communalism