



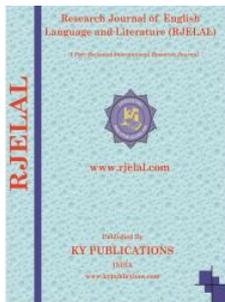
## PROBLEM OF INDIAN MIDDLE CLASS IN ROHINTON MISTRY'S *SUCH A LONG JOURNEY*

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doi: <https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.7119.509>



### ABSTRACT

It Analyses sufferings of the common man in *Such a Long Journey* and author's intensive view of individuals and society. Rohinton Mistry explores the loss of innocence of the protagonist, Gustad Noble, who attempts to define himself in relation to his family and his country during the disordered times of 1970s in India. *Such a Long Journey* illustrates sufferings of Gustad Noble in the hands of self centered politicians and heartless officials. His family worries and struggles become the embodiment of the average middle-class Indian family. Many secondary characters are crucial to capture the struggle between opposing themes in the course of the novel. Rohinton Mistry brings out the tension between modernity and tradition with surprising clarity.

Human suffering takes many forms: Physical, Psychological, Natural and Moral. All these sufferings are always equally harmful and they are interconnected. Sufferings can collapse a person or it can make one strong. It always depends on one's sufferings in a positive way or a negative way. It has an unavoidable role in the human journey of life and the literary world. Particularly in literature, Novels tell about people's struggles, sufferings and hopes that give a clear picture of a better understanding of real life. Thus, Rohinton Mistry is a famous writer who has an extraordinary sensibility and a soft corner for the suffered and innocent people. Then, he exposes the evils of exploitation of the people by the landlords, politicians etc., in his works.

**Key Words:** Middle Class, Sufferings, Exploitation

*Such a long journey* reveals the problem of the middle class Indian like Gustad Noble, who is the main character here narrated by the author Rohinton Mistry. Gustad Noble lives in Mumbai at Khodadad building, working in a bank. He looked so solid both mentally and physically.

On his long journey of life written by the famous author Rohinton Mistry was really one of the excellently depicted here. The family and the

friends and other incidents in his life occurs are so identical to the present society.

First of all we can see what is happening in his family life, his wife Dilnawaj a very helpful and nicely narrated character how a wife is most important in securing the family or maintain the family with good understanding with her husband. And with her growing sons and daughter was very well knitted by the author here in one of the

incident Dilnavaz characters is nicely made that she says to her son Sohrab don't raise your voice at daddy with two grown boys in the house father went to market brought chicken when he was your age your dad paid his own college fees and supported his parents. This shows how a woman can take care of her family in the society and a woman had a greater role in this than a man. When she saw the bundle of notes she force her husband to send it back before there is any trouble, troubles do not come with big advertisements giving reasons and it just comes so take it back, give to your taxi driver Mohamad this is what a wife's concern about her family as a woman of middle class family depicted.

In the long journey of Gustad Noble he come across a lot of joy and sadness and responsibility towards his family as well as his friends. One of the most incident here is a son's admission to IIT when Sohrab denies to join IIT, Gustad says such brainless talk from such a brain boy, Sohrab says it was never my idea you made all the plans this is how parents force their children against their wishes. As Sohrab interested to do B.A by with this Gustad sad and appeared by his son's betrayal joined a useless B.A. He became frustrated. In one of the paragraph author writes a beautiful feeling of Indian parents that every year at exam time we fed Sohrab seven almonds at daybreak with holes in the shoes I went to work so we could buy almonds to sharpen his brain at two hundred rupees a kilo. And all wasted, gone in the gutter water.

The journey with his classmate Malcolm was a different story narrated by Rohinton Mistry, he came how Christianity came to India over 19 hundred years ago, when the Apostle Thomas landed on the **Malabar coast long before you Parsis came in the 7<sup>th</sup> century from Persia running away from the Muslims.**

Malcolm help him in taking the church when his daughter Roshan was not feeling well. It shows how friends help in one man's life in his tenure of life. Gustad was happy with his friend Malcolm.

His life with his bank college Dinshwaji is a quite different story narrated by Rohinton Mistry here in this book such a long journey. Dinshwaji was a man of witty liked by all in the bank and become close to Gustad Noble. He helps Gustad in depositing the money, which was sent by his neighbor major BiliMoria. He was also a well wisher to his family always welcome during functions and a good hospitality to him by his wife. We can analyze this in this statement of Dinshwaji after looking the sons and daughter of Gustad he acclaims my god how tall they have grown. How a common man reacts to the situation as a guest. Talking about their education and health and all a common issue to be debated and he too guide Sohrab to join IIT instead of B.A. By narrating that a street painter did two B. A degrees and doing nothing than drawing for his lively hood.

His life journey with his neighbor major Bili Moria was one more history given by Rohinton Mistry here. Gustad and his family loves him very much because he worked in the military and serve the nation during war with Pakistan and China. At the same time he comes across a lot of trouble when he sends 10 lakh money to deposit in the bank to help the Bengali refugees. When Dilnavaz says to return money to avoid the trouble Gustad remembered his past how jimmy helped him during his accident carried to the madhiwala bone setter. Gustad thinks years of friendship swam before his eyes what kind of world is this and what kind of men. Who can behave in such fashion? Bilimoria try to console Gustad when went to Delhi to meet him what hope the country? With such crooked leader? Those ministers and politicians getting fatter and fatter sucking our blood, but I decided it, they can profit from the sixty lakh why not us? her son his maruthi car factory what ever they use it for we can also use some you your family Gulam me why not? to you but why did you not tell me what was really happening? here jimmy says to Gustad that i know you..... your principles would you have agreed if i told you the truth? That we may divide the money among us is not true, I know two wrongs do not make a right, but I was disgusted if 50 lakhs reached prime minister's office no one would notice about 10 lakhs but

every pipeline has leaked but..... I was mistaken, they arrested me what they really wanted was the 10 lakes, and touched me. Once the money was returned everything fine transferred to hospital for treatment. This incident tells us about the corruption level of politicians which prevailed in our country and sacking the people who are honest. Rohinton Mistry was really good at this stage of narration in giving us about how countries' future may be and it is beyond the common man's imagination. How the things being done by those in power. Author Rohinton Mistry has given us the current scenario of India.

Dr. Paymaster was one role brought by the writer here in the journey of Gustad Noble he speaks about the war against Pakistan to liberate East Pakistan in his words of the doctor. At India forces foot closer to Dacca and the liberation of Bangla Desh was imminent the mud everywhere grew optimistic he says the wonderful correct diagnosis is half the battle proper prescription the other half injection is in the Indian army I said and so the critical moment is past road to recovery. Now if only we could cure our internal sickness as quickly and effectively as this external sickness we could be one of the healthiest countries in the world.

Did you smell the gutters terrible said gustad does the municipality listen? Does it do anything? No inspectors come and go, but the gutters overflow for ever and police corruption on top of that they want weekly hate from people who are using the pavements, everyone in this area is fed up and running out of patience. Do you have a prescription for the internal sickness? Dr. paymaster of course, only one problem because the prescription is so painful it might kill the patient before the sickness does. Gustad nodded, understanding the gist if not the specific of the doctor's remedy. Only after that bad experience, we can feel joy experiences in a man life or journey. So many incidents occur in a man's life like friends, family, countries economic, political, religion and status affect in the journey so many customs believe ritual, etc. is becoming part of our life without our knowledge very well narrated by

Rohinton Mistry. As well the role of tehenal long also had a long journey in the novel.

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