



## Shaping of Vijay Tendulkar as a playwright

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Article Received: 02/12/2019

Article Revised: 08/01/2020

Article Published online:  
15/01/2020

DOI: [10.33329/rjelal.8.1.9](https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.8.1.9)

### Abstract

Present paper is proposed to study Vijay Tendulkar as an Indian playwright. Six famous plays by Tendulkar, has been focused mainly in the paper to draw a sketch of the playwright's personality based on his treatment of numerous themes and characters in his plays. Tendulkar has written basically all his plays in his native language 'Marathi'. It is contribution or co-operation of many translators who has translated his plays in English and in many other languages. But English version is more popular than that of other language versions. And about the themes and the sources of his plays it would not be wrong to say that all of his plays are based on his experiences and his direct observation of society. Tendulkar is basically a social reformer and through his plays he wants to reform the society by highlighting some burning problems of society in form of portraying them as the plots for his plays. What kind of playwright Vijay Tendulkar is, has been discovered in the conclusion of the paper by a brief study of playwrights selected plays.

**Keywords-** Playwright, Marathi, Indian Playwright, Translators, Problems of society

Vijay Tendulkar was born in 1928 in a Marathi Brahmin family and about his career as a playwright and a writer it is evident from study of his biography that he began his career as a journalist in 'Marathi Weakly'. He remained in this job a number of years. In 1948 he became the assistant editor of the **Navbharat Times**, all this while he had started writing short stories and later he switched to writing one act plays, writing full length plays was natural progression, from his very first play, Grihastha (1957) to Safar (1992).

With the view to reform the society Vijay Tendulkar selects 'Middle Classmen' their social conditions, and their behaviors and attitudes toward society especially problems of man and women. In most of his plays Tendulkar has tried to highlight the problems faced by men and women in the society.. In his observation whatever he finds, illegal, not

proper, and imbalanced and deformed he has tried his best to expose those problems through his plays using satirical method to cure the society from such types of burning problems. His plays are useful for both reading and stage performance. There is a brief discussion on some of his plays which gives the proof of his dramatic shaping and achievements.

*Kamala* is his well known two act play; its theme is flesh trade and how a well known journalist like Jaisingh Jadhav seeks to capitalize on it in order to further succeed in his career without caring in the least, for the victims of this nefarious trade in a democratic country like India. The play offers Vijay Tendulkar scope to scoff at the kind of trendy journalism practiced by Jaisingh Jadhav and also to strike a contrast between the Journalism in the vernacular and that in English. Tendulkar has used the play also to dwell on the characteristic suffering

of the Indian Middle Class women. Perpetrated by selfish, malicious, and erective and hypo critical male chauvinists. The man woman relationship is among one of the most favorite themes of Vijay Tendulkar's plays, it is also deeply touched in complex relationship between Jadhav and his wife Sarita. Kamala is a Gynocentric play in sense that it is build on the metamorphosis of Sarita emerging from being a docile wife to an assertive, nature women in the end.

In *Silence! The Court Is In Session* Leela Barare is central character of the play. All the incidents of the play move around her, the play is based on behavior of urban middle class peoples, selfishness, greed, jealousy and hypocrisy. Leela Benare economically self stand is a school teacher. And remaining members of the group are Mr. Kashikar is the chairman of the dramatic association. Mrs. Kashikar is the housewife, who follows her husband as a meek shadow. Means she follows her husband each time in and outside of the house. Mr. Ponshe he is an Inter failed clerk. Sukhatme is a lawyer; Karnic is an actor by profession who has taken credit to prepare the dramatic group well. Balu Rokade is a collage student who is adopted by Kashikars. Prof. Damale is a professor in real life. Though He is not present in any scene of the play on the stage but he causes a great significance in the play even after being absent. Shamant is an innocent villager from the village near which the play was to be performed. When every member of the group assembles there and they come to know that Mr. Ravate and Prof. Damale are not coming due to some reason. This causes a great tension to Kashikar. He is sad and worried about the performance which was scheduled for tonight. At this Sukhatme tells Mr. Kashikar not to worry about it. I will play the role assigned to Damale, and all of them agree to give the role of fourth witness to Samant which was assigned to Rawate. The main problem arises is to make understand the court related activities to Samant. So they play a Mock trial court a play within play and through their trial all of them create an imaginary case and torture Leela Benare by disclosing some private affairs of her life. They charge upon her the guilt of infanticide and all of them ganged upon her, they tear her through their comment on her private

secrete life. All the members of the dramatic association even Mrs. Kashikar hurts her bitterly by giving some socking evidence on the accused Benare's private life.

Means all of them torture her at the name of mock trial. In the mid of the play sometime they remind Benare that they are not really torturing her it is a joke but it does not recover the pain of Benare and the only weapon to save her chastity is to be silence, so Benare preserves it till the last of the play and at last she reveals her soliloquy in a long dialogue and she collapse at stage holding the end of a chair. It means this play depicts the exploitation of female by male and even today in male dominated society the condition of the woman's is very critical. This critical condition has been shown in *Silence! The Court in Session* through the character of the Benare. Being independent, self stand, cleaver and sufficient to do well everything she is doomed to be slave of her colleague us they torture her.

The story of *Silence! The Court is in Session* is based on Tendulkar's own of observation of the society. He finds these types of activities prevailing in the society even when we talk about the male-female equal right and capacity. Title of the play is very significant because since the beginning of the play the protagonist Benare preserves silence during the court was in session to save her chastity else where there was no alternative for her. About its acting and actor it would be very significant to say that the play is very simple to act and an ideal actor can play easily the role of allotted to characters. It is a renowned fact that Tendulkar is a social reformer from teeth to nail and in this order whenever he observes any social evil he tries to put it in front of public through his plays, to with an aim to make them think about the burning problems of the society.

*Sakharam Binder* is one among his social plays. In this play Tendulkar has focused on poor middle classmen's conditions and on their behaviors. Sakharam is cursed Brahmin, he is the character of the play who escapes from his house at the age of the eleven with the fear of punishment by his parents. So wandering in the open streets and

facing many troubles he becomes rude and joins the job of a book binder in a press.

His suffering makes him rude toward the social institutions and traditional beliefs. He does not believe in the holy marriage institution. And he brings the rejected women of the society in his home and he enjoys and tortures them sexually and physically. As per his habit he brings a woman named, Lakshmi, a poor, sensitive, terrified, religious and good working woman. Her husband had thrown her out of house because she could not produce child and due to some other misunderstanding. Shakharam brings her in his home and tells her that in spite of all bad habits he is the master of his house and he must be respected in his house in exchange of giving her shelter and food: she agrees with him and starts living with him. But as the passes of time Shakharam tortures her and she leaves his house and goes to her nephew house.

After her departure Sakharam brings another woman, Champa. She is totally different in terms of behavior with Lakshmi. She is not silly like Lakshmi. She does not serve him physically but she is smarter than Lakshmi. Shakharam fulfills his sexual need with her but other household he has to do himself. After sometime Lakshmi returns to Sakharam's home being humiliated and being blamed of theft by the wife of her nephew falsely. At this Shakharam kicks her and does not allow her to live in his house again but Champa shows pity upon her and allows her to live in the same house saying that she will fulfill your domestic needs and I will physical. But one day Sakharam in influence of liquor beats Lakshmi and drives her out of house at this Lakshmi discloses the secret love affair of Daud and Champa. Hearing this Sakharam becomes out of control and losing his temper kills Champa. After murder of Champa, Lakshmi encourages and consoles Sakharam to keep calm and cool mind of what has happened. She promises him that she will lead a happy life with him and fulfill his all needs.

In this play Tendulkar has contrasted two different aspects of women through Champa, and Lakshmi, one is so rude, sensitive and full of revolt, and another is silly, poor and domestic, religious, Indian lady. If we look upon the general tendency of

human being is based on social effect. All the good and bad behaviors are product of society. It is society which forces one's to do good or bad: It is also applied in the all of the characters of the *Shakharam Binder*.

Sakharam himself is the deformed product of society as he runs away from his home at the age of the eleven due to fear of punishment of his parents. He wanders in the streets of the city and he is hated by society torture by society so he becomes rude and loses all the religious and traditional belief and of the society, he behaves according his needs. This also happens in the case of Champa that's why she becomes so rude and complicated. Fauzdar Sinda hires her from her parents in her child age and sexually tortures her and when she grows up she begins to hate him and leaving him she runs away and: Sakharam brings her after departure of Lakshmi. Language of the play very appropriate and it is the use of effective language that makes the speeches and communication between characters interesting.

The aim of this play is also social, through this play Tendulkar wants to show man and woman relationship. Woman - Woman relationship and importance of society in the life of human beings and finally he concludes it through this play that it is society that makes right or wrong in the activities of human beings.

*The Vulture* is a very terrible domestic play of Vijay Tendulkar. Through this play Tendulkar has shown, the limits of human greed and jealousy and misconduct in the behavior of human beings. Tendulkar has compared the members of a family with vultures. Hari Pitale the father of Ramakant, Umakant, Manik and Rajaninath disown his own brother from his business by cheating but with the passes of time his business destroys and what else he has saved, he has loosed and in the beginning of the pay his sons Ramakant, Umakant and daughter, Manik torture him to acquire money from him and to know that something else he has hidden with them so they beat him, abuse him and after much torture he tells them that seven thousand he has saved in PNB. Ramakant and Umakant exploit their own sister by blackmailing and breaking her leg and

aborting her child which was growing with the result of Manik and King of Hondur love Affair. In their family the wife of RamaKant Rama has some qualities of human being among those four pitiless vultures. Her husband does not provide her the pleasure of a husband but fond of son. So he goes near many Hakims, Hermits and result it was in vain at last when Rajaninath comes to know the condition of Rama, he establishes sexual relationship with Rama and makes her pregnant, but soon, this secret is disclosed by Umakant about her adultery and Ramakant aborts that child. In the beginning when this play was written Sensor Board Banned upon its production because of its inhuman outlook but later it was passed by sensor board and it was successfully played on the stage and it became popular. This play it is very appropriate by Tendulkar, which symbolizes the members of Pitalas family with vulture except Rama and Rajaninath, because their behavior is greater than that of original vultures and if we talk about the language and diction of this play. We find that it very poor use of language. We can see in each dialogue of every character except Rama who did not use abusive language even son for father, brother, sisters, father for sons and daughters, Bastard, bloody, scoundrel and some other abusive words have been used without any hesitation so we find in this play inhuman relationship.

*Ghashiram Kotwal* is political Allegory. This play has also much social significance. The story of the play has been taken from the Peshawai Empire. Ghashiram a Kannaujian Brahmin comes in search of job in Poona and he is ill-treated by the Brahmins of Poona and he swears that he will take revenge at any rate and he will make the city of Poona the city of pigs. To fulfill his desire he sells his newly blossomed girl Lalita Gauri to Nana Pandanavis in exchange of the post of Kotwal of Poona city.

Nana a scavenger, womanizer, and thirsty of newly blossomed girls accept his demand and made him Kotwal of Poona, being Kotwal of Poona, he commands his own rule and he terrifies the whole city with his terror but he loses the chastity of his daughter and at last Nana Pandanavis a clever politician suspends him and orders the excited mobs of Poona to take revenge of their loss. So at last

public beats him mercilessly and he dies with great pain and dissatisfaction. Language used in the communication is appropriate in accordance with the role of characters. About the act and acting of the play it is found that the acting of the play is very simple and this play have been translated in many Indian languages as well as in European even Europe and even the DVD of the play is also available in the market.

*A Friends Story* is another most important play dealing with an important issue of the contemporary society. The theme of the play has a great social significance and it is also the product of Tendulkar self-observation of his contemporary society. The story of this play is something different from the other plays. The playwright himself has played the role of Sutradhar and narrates all the major incidents depicted in the play very adequately. The story is very amazing and interesting the story deals with an incident of Bapu's college life. Bapu is a student of graduation, one day he passes through the door of girl's hostel he finds a photograph and he puts it in his pocket and finds that it is the photograph of a girl (Sumitra). And he decides to return it to her and one day at evening he happens to see her going on cycle. He calls her and at last he gives her the photograph. She asks something about him and he tells that he is her class-met. She takes the photograph and runs away. Since then they begin to meet each other as a good friend and they share the feelings of each other. After some time Bapu's room partner informs him he has been appointed the monitor of dramatic association of the class and teacher has announced that Male and Female will play the drama separately. So he exclaimed with grief that there is a need of a girl who can play the role of male. So he tells Bapu to tell Sumitra to do so but he forbids him. But Pandey goes directly to her and tells the problem. She agrees at his request and at the day of program she successfully plays the role of male in which she acts as a lover of a girl named Nama very effectively and the show was appreciated by every one for its genuine action and dialogue delivery. Pandey returns to room fully drunk and he says to Bapu that he wants to love Sumitra because she is very beautiful, gorgeous and charming so he wants to

love her and he tells Bapu to set his love affair with her. Next day when Bapu meets with Sumitra she tells him that she wants his room for a day. When Bapu asks purpose she shares him that she has fallen in love with Nama since she has played the role of her lover at the time of dramatic show in the college, so she has invited her to share her feelings to Nama. Hence she needs Bapu's room for a day. Sumitra's love toward Nama increases beyond the proper limit and to find her, she is ready to do anything. Intoxicated by love for Nama Sumitra does not care about the feelings of Bapu as well as Nama. At last being disturbed with her Nama leaves the city for Culcutta without any planning but she informs Bapu about her departure to Culcutta. Bapu informs Sumitra about Nama departure. Hearing the news of Nama's departure Sumitra becomes mad and goes to Culcutta to find Nama but does not find her due lack of proper address. She returns from Culcutta and commits suicide.

Thus with brief discussion on all the six plays it is observed that Tendulkar is a versatile genius in the field of drama writing. And his plays depict the social reality of many folded aspects of contemporary Indian society. The language and elements of drama being used by the playwright provide a place to Vijay Tendulkar among best classical playwrights of the world.

#### **Works Cited**

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#### **A Brief Note on corresponding author**

**Dr.Devendra Kumar Tiwari** an MA and Ph.D in English Literature from Gurukul Kangari Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar, Uttrakhand, India is currently offering his services to MMMUT, Gorakhpur, Uttar-Pradesh, India as a Guest faculty of English. Dr. Tiwari has ten years of teaching experience to UG and PG classes both. He has had several papers of national repute in various national and inter-national journals and anthologies. He has also participated in many national and international seminars and conferences organized by various universities of India.