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EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE: SOCIAL COMPETENCE IN THE CHARACTER KRISHNA IN
RUSKIN BOND'S "ANGRY RIVER"

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ABSTRACT

Ruskin bond a renowned writer has been writing for five decades, has written more than three hundred stories, thirty books for children, essays and novels to his credit. Bond's writings are autobiographical and semi autobiographical in nature. He is one of the prolific writers of India and a pioneer in the field of Children's Literature. He has received several awards namely Sahitya Akademi award, Padma Shri for his fantabulous contribution to Children's Literature. A major character of bond's novels has environmental influence on them. The environment to which an individual exposed to strongly influences his characteristics. It affects an individual thinking, understanding, perception and personality and reinforces different set of behaviour. Hence imparting EI at an early stage will help the children to encounter challenges of life. The academic knowledge and skills acquired will certainly enable them to acquire good position and titles, but will never make an individual a holistic persona. Exposure to emotional intelligence at very early stage will surely enable the children to tackle, emotional pressures, life problems, hardships and will develop in them social skills. This paper intends to highlight importance of EI and application of EI to the character of Ruskin bond's *Angry River*.

Keywords: Environment, Influence, Emotional Intelligence, Character, Personality.

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INTRODUCTION

Ruskin Bond a prolific writer for more than six decades has produced great literature for all ages. He predominantly writes for children and young adults. Bond's writings clearly depict his keen eye for different shades of nature; especially it throws light on human nature. His discourse will definitely carry the reader to a world full of fantasy and will also teach a moral at the end. The characters of bond are simply extraordinary and prove their outstanding adroitness during testing times. They are icons of hope, fortitude and heroic warriors of all time.

Emotional Intelligence

Emotional Intelligence is the ability to recognize and understand emotions in yourself and others, the ability to use the awareness to manage the behaviour and relationships said Drs.Travis Bradberry and Jean Greaves. (2) It affects the behaviour, decisions and the approaches. Emotional intelligence comprises of four core skills that are classified in two primary competencies: personal and social competence. Personal competence focuses on individual interactions with others whereas social competencies highlight social awareness and relationship management skills. It helps a person to understand other individual's moods, behaviour motives and enables him to acquire leadership qualities and nurture relationships. EI is the foundation for the critical skills. Practicing EI at earlier stage of life will definitely shape one's life and will propel him to higher pedestal of life.

Literature Review

Ms. D Sravana Jyothi (2015) Research Scholar explores the subaltern Indian voices with a touch of a sociologist and explains their characters in the tone of a behavioural psychologist. It magnifies the treatment of socially ostracized personalities, orphaned kids and destitute women. It also investigates the insecure childhood and social belongingness.

Prachi Goswami (2013), in her research she depicts the different aspects of interpersonal relationships displayed in writings of Ruskin Bond and Eric Kastner. These aspects are projected in the form of stories related to child, where the child has interpersonal relationship with members of his family. Children in the novels become the focal point of research.

Summary

The novel *Angry River* is about a girl Sita, who lives with her grandparents in a hut on an river. The story begins projecting Sita's grandmother as ill, and grandfather decides to take her to hospital in a nearby town, in his boat with three goats. Before he sets out he warns her about the rain which cause flood and advises her to climb the tree if the island ebbs out. The dull climate changes and it starts to rain. Sita witness the water rising, and things floating. She hurriedly packs some spices, grandmother's only saree, hookah in a trunk and runs to peepul tree for safety, leaving her comrade mumta (doll).

Suddenly, the tree Sita was clinging to get uprooted by the wild flood and falls into the river. Little girl who was panicked finds a boy who was heading towards her to rescue. Krishna the saviour offers a helping hand to lift the girl, from the tree to his boat. He not only rescues but also provides a comfort zone by providing sweet mangoes. Since it become dark they together stayed in the boat in a dark forest, Sita finds solace at the company of her rescuer, later comes to know the death of her grandmother, returns to island with her grandfather to start up a new life, building a new hut.

Emotional Intelligence: Social Competence in the Character Krishna

Krishna, who saved Sita, resides in the nearby, came forward to help the people who were marooned in the flood. His true concern for others pushes him forward to take risk in order to save other's life. An empathetic person is always sensitive to need of others. Likewise, Krishna senses the beholding danger of Sita, who is clinging to the tree with fear, admits the flood, stretches his helping hand and makes her step inside the boat, reveals the empathetic nature in him. Sita who steps inside the boat never speaks anything moments of silence prevails, silence is broken by the interrogation of Krishna. He enquires about her and grandparents. This act of him proves to be a good communicator, who promotes an open, communication, which in turn paved way for a cordial relationship between Sita and Krishna

Krishna and Sita shares mangoes to satisfy the hunger, nurtures their relationship. As they were sailing it became dark, they station in dark forest. They witness different wild animals, Sita who is tired fastens to sleep, but Krishna remains awake. Her deep sleep was disturbed by the cry of a bird and trumpeting of an elephant. Krishna, who understood the feelings of Sita, ensures her that everything around them is fine and asks her sleep, but Sita lost her sleep. Immediately Krishna play's a flute, the enchanting melodies from the flute resonated the forest, and carried Sita to land of dreams. This timely act of Krishna supports that, he is a

boy who can understand others needs and feelings. Throughout the night, the saviour Krishna guards Sita from perils of the forest. He was committed to his mission.

Next morning Sita and Krishna leaves the forest and heads on towards their village. In the beginning Sita believes that Krishna will accompany her till the end; later she understands, that he has decide to leave her in the custody of the old farmer, attests that he is focused in his exertion. Krishna makes Sita to board in a farm's bullock cart and gives his flute promising her that he will come and collect it from her someday signify his concern in building and nurturing relationships. Later Sita bids bye to him, meets her grandfather understands the death of her grandmother with a sad heart she goes to the island and with her grandfather they rebuild the hut, everyday anticipating the arrival of Krishna.

As promised, Krishna surprises Sita by his presence in the evening. He also asks for the flute and teaches her to play the flute. This happening witnesses the profound quality of a leader who keeps up his promises till the end.

Conclusion

Krishna's role in this novel clearly amplifies that he is confer with social awareness and social skills. Though he is young he has sophisticated qualities like empathy, selfless service to the needy, initiating to accomplish things, dedication towards his mission, building and nurturing relationships. In short span of time Krishna influences Sita highly, and every act of him constantly reminds that he is an embodiment of social competence.

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