



---

# Exploring The Differences In The Perspectives Of Adults And Children On The Basis Of Selected Works By R.K Narayan

**Vinay Devrani** (Research Scholar), Department of English, Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun.

**Dr. Yash Deep Singh** (Associate Professor & Research Supervisor), Department of English, Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun.

**Anuj singh**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Graphic Era Deemed to be University Dehradun, India, [anujsinghrawat72@gmail.com](mailto:anujsinghrawat72@gmail.com)

---

## ABSTRACT:

Purpose of exploring the field of general psychology, particularly the different perspectives of children's and adults' psychology in the light of psychological theories of famous experts and R.K. Narayan's characters, especially children, adults and parents in his famous fictions and novels, is to bridge the gap among all the humans, in order to bring harmony in the mankind and avoid all clashes, conflicts, differences, adult- authority, isolation, communication gap and so on which human beings come across such things in their lives, while dealing with one another one way or the other. The aim of the study is to work on psychoanalysis of an individual such as child, adult & parents, so that the best practices can be adopted to overcome tensions among them and suggest the remedial approaches for the well being of an each individual by depicting the fictional characters in the unique works of the world known literary figure and author R.K. Narayan. The book also emphasizes the suffering of children, which is frequently overlooked by the so-called wise adult world, and how the pure, uncorrupt mind must endure elders' cruelty in order to create a gentleman out of them.

**Keywords:** Children, Adults, Perspectives, Parenting, Conflicts, Psychology & Thought process

## INTRODUCTION:

Literature is one of the most interesting and significant expressions of humanity. Reading his novels and stories allow readers to get a glimpse into his childhood while considering how the adult world appears to a young child. A bend of literature and psychology ascertain the problematic areas and recommend the best practices to maintain harmony in the relationships.

R.K. Narayan has been one of the famous Indian novelists. Numerous awards for his literary work: Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan, Filmfare Award, Honorary Membership of the American Academy of Arts and Literature. He worked on fiction, non-fiction & novels. In his long career he published fourteen novels, over two hundred short stories, a memoir, innumerable essays, and two plays. His first novel was *Swami and Friends* (1935). His last published work was *Grandmother's Tale* (1992). His special work for children is *Swami and Friends*, *The Grandmother's Tales*, *Hungry Child*, *Unbreakable Doll*, *Leela's Friend*, *The Performing Child*, *Sweets for Angels* and many more. In order to understand the relationships better between children and adults, the selected short stories were taken from *Malgudi Days*, a collection of 32 short stories including a few novels and then all the stories were analyzed separately from the view point of children and adults. Psychology has been understood in a universal context, keeping in mind the differences or rifts between children and adults and there is a concern and empathy towards children with an understanding of the sensibilities and intelligence of adults and parents to sustain well development of mankind.

The characters of R.K. Narayan are well portrayed in the fiction and with a perfect connect of psychological theories to make the readers aware of the best and proven practices universally in the favor of human. This chapter will finally concentrate on the major findings figured out from the study. It will also concentrate on the scope and suggestions for the further studies. Concerned about how the adult world ignores the situation of children, R.K. Narayan speaks out against it (Speech in the Rajya Sabha). Many of R.K. Narayan's short stories focus on the predicament of the children. Narayan was able to do so because he was able to relate to that hardship from his own childhood. As a result, children make up the majority of the characters he creates in his novels. These characters are immersed in their own world of innocence and modest aspirations, and they frequently encounter and bear the apathy and insensitivity of the adult world. The psychological investigation of human implications, particularly those related to human intentions and counteractions, is what really makes R.K. Narayan's writings so captivating {1}. According to the American Psychological Association, psychology is the study of the mind and behavior. It is the investigation of the mind, its operations, and how these influence behavior.

To arouse concern and empathy towards children and understand the sensibilities and intelligence of adults and parents to sustain, well development of mankind. To highlight the plight and problems faced by particularly children and the own challenges of adults and parents. To bridge the gap for the above individual differences, it is suggested to apply the proven psychological theories in the real life experiences {2}.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW:**

The stories of *Swami* were an essential component of our curriculum. *Malgudi* is a made-up city that came to life in R. K. Narayan's books. He came up with the charming character *Swami*. *Swami* Narayan engages the minds of both children and adults. Kids will be introduced to the carefree lifestyle of a rural young lad growing up in South India through the films *Malgudi Days* and *Swami*

and Friends. It's enlightening to read about Swami and his friends' exploits during the long summer days when they would go out picking mangoes from the trees in today's world, where technology has taken over even children's lives. The works of Narayan wonderfully represent outdated value systems. Families are centred on the grandparents, and kids live regulated lives. (sans television and internet). Narayan's stories like 'The Performing Child', 'Unbreakable Doll', 'Hungry Child', 'Leela's Friend', 'Uncle', 'Dodu', 'The Regal' explore the make believe world of children which seems to be contrast to matter-of-fact world of adults. The children in the stories of Narayan, Margaret Berry says, are capricious, mischievous, and lovable always breaking the predictions of the adults {6}. R.K. Narayan wrote the book Swami and Friends in 1935. A child named Swami and his buddies Rajam and Mani are the subjects of the story. The protagonist of the book, Swami, is a daring adventurer {4}. R K Narayan is particularly interested in how his characters' innermost thoughts and feelings are depicted {5}. Haim G. Ginott, The psychotherapist, and child psychologist invented methods of communication with kids that are still taught today. His book, Between Parent and Child, spent more than a year on the best-seller list and is still well-liked today. The goal of this book is to provide "particular guidance derived from fundamental communication principles that will aid parents in raising their children with dignity and respect for one another." {3}.

In the 1920s, Swiss researcher Jean Piaget started researching intellectual development. Piaget went to Paris and started working on the first "standardised intelligence test" at Alfred Binet laboratories because he thought psychology was the source of all knowledge. This had a significant impact on his career. He became intensely interested in how children's intellectualism functions while he conducted these IQ tests. He created his own laboratory as a result, spent years observing children's intellectual development, and made an effort to understand how children thought through different phases of development. The term cognitive development refers to the process of growth and changes in intellectual or mental abilities such as thinking, reasoning and understanding {7}. Alison Gopnik is renowned for her contributions to the fields of cognitive and language development. She focuses on causal learning, the development of a theory of mind, and the impact of language on thought. Her writings are based on cognitive science and psychology. Gopnik is one of the most well-known researchers in the field and one of the best writers, according to Slate. He has a remarkable talent for connecting scientific research to the concerns that parents and other people want answered the most. Her famous book is The Gardener and the Carpenter {8}.

## **LITERATURE DISCUSSION:**

In the story, Iswaran (Malgudi Days) Iswaran, intermediate class, student failed the exam three times continuously. Having been bullied by his friends and humiliated by his own parents, he has determined to stick to university education with a ferocious devotion. He was considered as a sort

of dumb and idiot. Iswaran obtained a second class and thought of doing B.A further. He assumed that he was the only resident of the world. At the end his body came up at a spot.

Suicide – Note, I don't want to live. Don't worry about me. You have other sons who are not ignoramus as I am {9}.

In the story, Father's Help (Malgudi Days) Swami is a school going child, mischievous and reluctant to go to school every day. Having been alleged the teacher that he is very violent, especially with boys who come late. When he starts caning he would not stop till he saw blood on the boy's hand. Swami could not handover the complaint letter to the principal {10}.

In the story, Mother and Son (Malgudi Days) Ramu being patient and worried about his future unable to find a job, still twenty rupees per month. He dreamt of being married to a girl like Rezia, whom he saw in two or three Hindi movies. Life was rusty and sterile and Ramu lived in a stage of everlasting depression; he letting up away his time, or slept, or read an old newspaper in free reading room. Ramu has been calm and composed personality, although he internally felt depressed and remained quiet in front of his mother's hyper behavior sometimes {11}.

In the story, Second Opinion (Malgudi Days) I occasionally felt stressed. My mother wouldn't let me be alone. We couldn't be more dissimilar. Sambu did not have any formal education beyond matriculation, which he failed to complete despite three attempts. After his father passed away, he gave up since he suddenly realised it was pointless to desire to pass a test. Who were they to test me and determine whether or not I was fit for what?

Sambu has always shown his mother a lot of love and attention, but he loathed himself for lowering her spirits. She was gently pushed back inside the house by Sambu after being moved by her plight and private aspirations, who urged her to enter quickly before anyone noticed them. I'll bring him here from the bus stop once I go there {12}.

In the story, The Performing Child (Malgudi Days) Kutti is a growing child aged around 10 to 12 years very fond of imaginations and joyful girl. She is very good at dancing. She was asked to perform excellent dance in front of film producers so that she could get hefty amount of money and buy her favorite dolls and toys. Kutti remained calm and composed in front of film producers and her parents up to a certain extent she was fearless and herself. In spite of knowing that her dance is being tested. Kutti performed an excellent dance and got selected for the screening test. Kutti did not like commanding or tempting approach on her. She was so happy with the world of her own. Kutti did not like being dressed differently as she was dressed up as per the requirement of cinema by a film producer. Kutti being so much scared of the adults' world hid herself and got faint. After being conscious she asked immediately to her mother, "Have they gone?" {13}.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF CHILDREN:**

In the story, Iswaran, he failed the intermediate exam three times continuously and he felt so dejected and isolated. He was tired of taunting made by his parents and relatives on him such as the comforts of showering, combing his hair, and putting on an ironed coat were too high class for him. He eventually came to understand that he was not entitled to such comforts. He defended himself by saying that he only narrowly failed Logic last year. On it the family as a whole laughed. He felt embarrassed for himself after seeing his successful friends. Iswaran wished if his parents could appreciate and motivate him to sustain his life. Next morning his body came up at a spot few miles down the course of the river. His parents recovered a suicide note from his pocket stating, "I don't want to live. Don't worry about me. You have other sons who are not such dunces as I am."

In the story, Father's Help, Swami experienced his father was a strict and stubborn person. Has there been no school today, Father questioned him. Headache, in reply, from Swami. "Nonsense!" the father yelled. "Get dressed and go." Swami had the urge to sprint home and implore his father to return the letter. Father, though, was a stubborn guy.. Eventually, Swami found his teacher genuine and sensible, in spite of false allegation made by himself to his teacher. He wished to make his father understand but could not dare as his father is more of commanding than friendly. Father shouted at Swami, "Don't come to me for help even if Samuel throttles you. You deserve your Samuel."

In the story, Mother and Son, Ramu failed his intermediate exam on his fourth try, and he was unable to find employment, not even at a salary of 20 rupees a month. Additionally, his mother was always pressuring him to get married. Ramu slumbered, dozed, or read an old newspaper in a public reading room to while away the hours of his persistent melancholy and depression. Ramu's mother despised him because he was gruff.

In the story, Second Opinion, Ramu sometimes felt harassed as his mother did not leave him in peace. He felt happy to be alone in his little cubicle at home. She yelled and harangued the servant girl, and her voice irritated me. I secured my room's door by bolting it. I wanted to browse the books I kept at home in privacy. At those times, I despised her. Why should she consider exams and degrees important? He perceived it as his regular and conventional way of thinking. Her sister's sons at Madras were all graduates, so when they discussed my performance in family settings, she felt embarrassed. In this setting, I would feel upset and oppressed and would leave silently. Mother was a good person, but she never let anyone know about her inner admiration. Ramu, who was being oppressed, remarked, "One has to live."

In the story, The Performing Child, Kutti did not like being commanded and dressed in a different way as she was dressed up as per the requirement of cinema by a film producer. Kutti being so much frightened from the adults' world hid herself and got faint. After being conscious she asked immediately to her mother, "Have they gone?" Kutti wanted to enjoy her childhood but her own wish got unattended since her parents wished her to be a good dancer.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF ADULTS:**

The Story of Iswaran is a lifelong learning lesson for parents how to treat the children in their difficult times and guide them to do well in life. Iswaran failed the exams three times continuously. He was treated as a sort of thick skinned idiot. Iswaran was humiliated by his own parents. He was advised by his father that why he did not leave his studies and tried to perform something productive.

In the Story "'Iswaran', the parents felt that in spite of being failure and dumb, Iswaran's attitude was like a desperado. He swung his arms, strode up and down, bragged and shouted, and event to a cinema. He used to be in a well-ironed coat, well washed, and well combed his hair overall well groomed. He said to his mother, "Don't expect me for dinner tonight. I will eat something in a hotel and sit through both the shows at the palace talkies. Iswaran was a kind of Indifferent person according to his parents.

In the story Father's Help, Swami's parents were bit disturbed due to casual attitude of Swami for not going to scholl regularly and taking his study seriously. Swami was lying on the bench in mother's room. Father asked him, "Have you no school today?" Swami replied, "Headache".

Swami was mischievous and reluctant to study. In fact many times he sounded disobedient to his parents. Swami's father felt disappointed after listening to swami's complaints regarding his teacher for beating up the students like anything. His father composed a long letter to the headmaster and asked Swami to handover the letter to the principal.

In the Story' Mother and Son', mother started getting disturbing thoughts regarding her son's disappearance all of a sudden - She approached the tank without even daring to glance at the water. She briefly considered whether it might be his corpse. Ramu's mother needed a break from housework because she was getting older. Who would prepare Ramu's meals and take care of him if she passed away at any moment? Mother feels that her son is unconcerned and negligent and did not feel accountable to do basic work at home. Ramu's mother being widow wished to get his son married before she died. She had restless night.

In the story' Second opinion, mother was so much worried about the future of her son. Her sister's sons at Madras were all graduates, so when they discussed my performance in family circles, she felt embarrassed. Mother would scream after seeing her Son's continuous failure in matriculation exam. According to doctor, mother may have experienced fainting symptoms as a result of prolonged tiredness and malnutrition. Mother wished to marry him to a nice and well educated girl, but he was so reluctant to marry.

In the story, The Performing Child, the father of Kuti, is being practical to wish to get rid of debts and monthly installments. The parents were so excited and happy to know that their child would be performing on big screen of Cinemas. They did not wish to lose this therefore, they keep the daughter ready and tempted her to perform best dance so that she could buy so many toys and dolls for her out of money.

### **FINDINGS:**

The children's psychology are well portrayed in the stories and novels, but their issues, plights, and emotional breakdown are left without the realistic approaches or recommendations of the psychological experts to overcome the plight of the children and how the comparative study must be done between parents and children, in order to know their different perspectives in the light of psychological theories, so that proper harmony is maintained and we could give the best gift to mankind through the all round development of an individual. Moreover, in the area of research already done has not discussed the role of the major psychologists and their proven works which may relate in the characters' of R.K. Narayan such as children and parents and how they think, act, behave, perform, in respect to their emotions, happiness, fear, plight ,anxiety and so on. The parent child relation has to be well understood. Further findings were found to understand psychology in a universal context, keeping in mind the differences among the perspectives and world views of children, adults and parents. Highlight the problems faced by children and adults, including parents due to the differences in the perspectives and world views of children and adults and to develop empathy and better understanding in adults towards children.

### **CONCLUSION:**

It is crucial to comprehend children's social, cognitive, emotional, and educational development because society values children's healthy development. New ideas and approaches have been developed as a result of increased study and interest in this area, particularly with relation to practices that support the entire development of children and people.

Carl Jung believed that a person's childhood and adolescence are the most crucial stages of life and that we should give them far more consideration. In this sense, the child's future psychological health and potential psychological issues are surely determined by the possible conflicts, shortcomings, and prejudices that the child experiences in their familial context as well as the parenting style.

Alison Gopnik's major book: The Gardener and the Carpenter-Being a parent our job is not to make a particular kind of child. Instead, our job is to provide a protected space of love, safety, and stability in which children of many unpredictable kinds can flourish.

### **REFERENCES:**

1. Bawa, Rippy, "Reflection of the self through portrayal of children in the short stories of R. K. Narayan." International Journal of Engineering Sciences & Research 6. 10 (2017).
2. Haochen Zhao. "The Effect of Parental Relationship on Children Psychological Growth." Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research vol. 582 (2021).
3. Haim. G. Ginott. Between Parent and Child
4. R. K. Narayan "Facets of portrayal of characters in the works of R.K Narayan." Epitome Journals vol. 2, 10 (2016).
5. R. K. Narayan "Children and childhood stories in the works of R.K Narayan." International Journal of Research vol. 3, 1 (2015).
6. R. K. Narayan "To study the child psychology in the novels of R.K Narayan. International Journal of Research in Economics and Social Science vol. 3, 1 (2015).
7. Source: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/piaget.html>.
8. Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alison\\_Gopnik](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alison_Gopnik).
9. R. K. Narayan " Iswaran" Malgudi Days, Indian Thought Publication, ISBN 978-81-85986-17-3, pp.66.
10. R. K. Narayan "Father's Help" Malgudi Days, Indian Thought Publication, ISBN 978-81-85986-17-3, pp.83.
11. R. K. Narayan "Mother and Son" Malgudi Days, Indian Thought Publication, ISBN 978-81-85986-17-3, pp.206.
12. R. K. Narayan "Second Opinion" Malgudi Days, Indian Thought Publication, ISBN 978-81-85986-17-3, pp.246.
13. R. K. Narayan "The Performing Child" Malgudi Days, (TV Episode 1988).