



Why “ The Adventure Of Huckleberry Finn” Was Banned In Schools & Colleges

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ABSTRACT:

The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn was written by Mark Twain . It is one of the greatest novels of America and also masterpiece of Twain .But this is a novel which has been surrendered by opposition due to offensive language and racism .Despite of being a great novel , It was banned in schools and censored by the government, why? .Here ,the aim of this study is to analyze the general prospective of the novel and to find the issues it raised at the time of its publication and what are the views of the critics about the book .And also to review whether it should be banned or not .

KEYWORDS : Banned ,Masterpiece ,Censored ,Pseudonym ,Sequel ,Negro , Inappropriate

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Mark Twain was the pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens . The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn was first published in the United Kingdom in December 1884 and in United States in February 1885. . This novel is a direct sequel to “The Adventure of Tom Sawyer”. This book was considered to be one of the most challenged books of America .This novel is based upon Clemens’ own boyhood in Missouri ,before the civil war .The story of this novel is related to Huck ,the negro slave, trying to find out freedom for himself. He started writing this book to illustrate the social limitations that Americans imposed upon black people .This is considered to be the serious novel .This novel dealt with the regionalism .This book is a satire on the racism ,particularly upon the Africans that reside in the American society .But this book was criticized for the use of coarse language and also upon using the word “NIGGER” repeatedly .

banned or censored books : Those Books which contain material that is inappropriate and unsuitable for the society are restricted by the govt .and are called banned books .Those books are prohibited by the law and can not be accessed .Its aim is to protect the society especially children from wrong ideas and information .“THE ADVENTURE OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN” is also one of the banned books .

Story Of The Book: The story of this book is related to the African people that are settled in America for their better life but they are treated as black people and there exists distinction between the white and black people .This is the story about a boy named Huck and his adventures of life and also of his friend ,Jim .They are not ready to be sold as slave and want to lead their life by their own ways by changing identities .This book is related to the people living near the Mississippi river . The character of Huck is different from the society in which he resides .He wants to lead the life by his own ways .He always deals with the situation in a very comic manner which adds to the humour to the book .He does not want to be treated as a slave so he escapes from there .On the way, he meets Jim ,who is also disturbed from the society and wants not to be sold as slave, so he runs away to escape from brutal powers .In the end ,Jim is declared to be a free man and Huck also returns to his hometown .

Major themes that are shown in this novel:- There are many themes that are shown in this novel

- **Slavery:-**Black people were considered lower to which they were treated as the object of their domination power. This is revealed through the character of Huck .Huck , in this novel does the stealing and lying ,he learns humanity from Jim .Huck renounces “civilized life ”He sees corruption ,violence in the society and develop negative point for society .He does not want to be treated as a slave .So he makes a decision of running from the society .

As MARK TWAIN said that “a sound heart is a surer guide than an ill trained conscience” and goes on to describe the novel as “...a book where a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision and conscience suffers defeat”.

- **Freedom** :-It bestows upon someone the power to live freely ,to act ,to think without any restraints .Huck and Jim both desire for freedom .They want to be free of any restrictions .Huck wants freedom from the cruelty of his father so that he can think freely and can decide according to his own ideas .On the other hand ,Jim does not want to do work as slave man ,he wants to return to his family and lead a peaceful life .

As **Jean Paul Sartre** “Freedom is what you do with what has been done to you ”.Slavery is an issue that can be viewed through an individual’s experience or through the general experience of those affected people who come into their existence.

Book was banned by schools and colleges : This book was banned in schools and censored by the libraries . Firstly this book was banned in U.S.A. , there the book was called as “trash” and suitable only for the slums . Black people has condemned this .This book is not good for children .They called the book as “classic” .They want black people should not t be allowed to read this book or they will feel embarrassment about their heritage .It reveals the characters “low grade of morality ”.The most recent question is that :-

“How can a white man write about racism?”

These are the lines said about Mark because he was an American writer .He can read the psychology of the white man ,so it’s impossible for him to write such stories .It may be possible that it was his own opinion of the black people .This is much controversial part of Twain’s side .

Then it was banned in U.K. due to the use of offensive language and showing so much racism .they have continuously made use of word “N” .This book was the most complained book according to ALA (American Library Association) because of using the word “N” about 200 times .This work is a satire on racism ,as there are people along the Mississippi river who are noted for their colours .It has been criticized because of extensive use of coarse language .This book was banned from public libraries for being crude and offensive in language but despite of all these things ,it raises many other questions .Is this right that we should not read it or it should not be taught in schools and colleges .There is a depiction of black people and how they are treated in the society .Twain has made use of satiric irony to show their exploitation and the condition of the Negro people .He has also shown the characters in a very distinct way .This book is not read in all the black school and Christian schools for the use of the word “N” .

Why was it banned:-When people think of American life ,they only think of approaching from the bottom of the society to top through the determination .So they can lead their life in a joyful way .Everyone thinks of a society free of any discrimination where everyone is taken as equal and they are given equal status .When Mark wrote this “he showed the darker side of the humanity ,slavery and domination of the black people by the white what happened after civil war .So it was necessary for the govt .that this book should not be allowed to read .Because this book was considered to be immoral and it contains a little bit humour which is of a coarse type .The libraries and the school committees have the same opinion so it was decided that this book will be removed from school curriculum so that the black people do not feel down over themselves .and get disrespect from the white people .This book is declared as the most coarse novel that was ever written .

Views Of Different Writers About The Adventure Of Huckleberry Finn : There are many writers who have given their views about this novel whether it is good to read this book or not :-

- **T.S.Eliot** :While reading the book “The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn ”he said that it is one of the greatest books of Twain which can be called as a masterpiece .This is the book in which the geniusness of Twain can be easily realized .Acc to him ,Huckleberry Finn is a great work of imagination .It can give every reader whatever he wants to read out from it .The picture of social life and life style of black people that are presented in this book is similar to the actual life of black people at that time .He has also praised about the ending of the book which is neither in the tragic form nor comic form .
- **Jane Smiley**: Acc to Jane Smiley ,all great literature came out of this novel .She has the views that this novel should not be banned .Rather she said that those who said that this novel is not a great novel should find out some solid conclusions .They laid the propaganda for the inclusion of the book in the school curriculum by declaring that it is a great book .She said that if great literature has any purpose ,it is to help us to face with the responsibilities instead of avoiding them .
- **Shelley Fisher Fish Kin** : Fish Kin is the renowned author ,editor of many books .she has written many books ,essays .Apart from these she has written “ was Huck black ?”Based on Twain’s “The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn” .In her views , American criticize this novel whether Huck’s voice is “black” or “white” . She argues that Huck is a black youth in whiteface or that he is not .She says that Huck’s liberating language is in much common with the African Americans in the 19th century .Twain has used the virtues of American language which has to be done with ease and freedom .the language that is simple ,direct maintaining the meaning of the words .

- **David L. Smith** : David is the great historian .He has written many books .He said that Mark has used the word “nigger” which is the main reason for the rejection of his book .David here has dealt with the issue of racism .It is considered as the most offensive word in our language .But if we carefully assign the meaning of racial word ,then we will be able to find out the particular way in which the author uses it .He tries to understand us the nature of American racism and Mark Twain ‘s attack on it .Twain has made use of this term as a same word to “slave” .He has adopted a strategy to find the attacks on the basis of race .So he has shown inadequacy .A reader who is against this word then Smith put a question to them “How could Twain could write this novel without using the specific terms of that problem” .The specific function of this term in the book is not to offend or to dominate any person rather to explain their problems in the society where they reside .Slavery and racism are the social evils that take their place in the society .Indeed this novel suggests the real individual freedom ,in this land of free existence , can not be found .”American civilization enslaves and exploits rather than liberating the people .This is a great message of this novel .He said that the reason of banning this novel is not the words and the language rather the truth and real phase of the society which we refuse to admit .
- **Toni Morrison** :Morison’s overview of The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn are very easy to agree .She has talked about the racism .When the novel was banned from the libraries ,then she said that Twain’s use of the word “nigger” has many effects on the black and also upon the white people . There is an element of estrangement and soleness .So she said that this novel is identified ,examined for many years yet this novel can not be dismissed .It is a classical literature which can persist for a long time and can impact the whole society especially the black people .

Not to be banned:- Books contain good moral value and historical value , the way which Huck and Jim use to get freedom for themselves and to free them from any kind of slavery can become a lesson for the youngsters. . It is said that Mark has used offensive language actually it is not so rather it is the power of Huck’s language ,when he is free from any rules of language implied by the white man .The book was banned for many reasons but many educators think that this book is a great read .

II. CONCLUSION:

So, in the end, we can conclude that Mark Twain’s novel is a timeless novel surrounded by years and years of opposition and debate .Literature is a mirror of social life .So its aim is to reflect the life ,feelings ,behavior and thoughts of the society .Here the aim of writing this novel of Twain is not to perpetuate racism ,rather he used satire to expose the views and concepts of American people for the black people .The word “nigger” that he used in the novel was a common word used for the black people by the American people .Acc to critics ,this novel should be taught in schools and colleges so that students or the current society can be able to read this outstanding and important novel which will help them in understanding the good as well as bad things .

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