



## **A Study of the Indian Social and Political Upheaval in Raja Rao's Novel *Kanthapura***

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*Raja Rao's first novel Kanthapura is actually a complete India in miniature. This work of fiction is a kind of portrait gallery, representative of a larger world, a microcosm of modern India representing economic, domestic, social and political attitudes. It is a valuable social document dealing with the autocrat British rulers' who treated Indian people unfeelingly and mercilessly and how the Indian people stood up and challenged the British imperialism. The People of the nation faced brutalities of the British Raj courageously. People were badly treated and beaten up but still they kept their struggle persistent till their last breath. There were strikes everywhere and slogans like 'Inquilab Zindabad' and 'Mahatma Gandhi ki jai' boosted the spirits and morale of the sufferers even more. Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy is revealed by the deeds and considerations of different characters of the novel. Raja Rao has profoundly used Indian imagery, proverbs, and idioms and followed the ancient Indian way of story-telling in order to convey the Indian sensibility to perfection. Rao through this novel revealed his deep understanding of the Indian village life. Here Rao talked about the envies, rivalries and the rigidity of the Indian caste system. He described the Indian villagers in their exact colors like their superstitious mentality and close intimacy with nature, without any sort of prejudice. This paper aims to describe the political, economic, religious and social aspects of the people of Kanthapura, the British imperialism as well as the impact of Gandhian freedom struggle upon the masses and his different movements in the twenties.*

**Key Words:** *Freedom Struggle, Gandhian Influence, Nationalism, Movement, Pre- Independence Era*