

**Annexure - VIII**

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
BHAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG  
NEW DELHI-110002**

**PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF  
SENDING THE FINAL REPORT OF WORK DONE ON THE PROJECT**

**1.NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

**Ms.. Sunita Prasanna Kulkarni**

**2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INSTITUTION:**

**MAHAVIDYALAYA**

**L.J.N.J. MAHILA**

**PARANJAPE 'B' SCHEME,  
ROAD NO. 1,  
VILE PARLE (EAST),  
MUMBAI 400057**

**3. UGC APPROVAL NO AND DATE: F.No.23-239/07(WRO) dt.16.01.2008**

**4. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

**5. TENURE OF THE PROJECT: Two Years.**

**6. TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATED: Rs. 55,000/-**

**7. TOTAL GRANT RECEIVED: Rs. 40,000/-**

**8. FINAL EXPENDITURE: RS. 29,374/-**

**9. TITLE OF THE PROJECT: "The loral Island and The Lard of the Flies :  
A Comparative Study"**

**10. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECTS:**

1. To compare and contrast the two novels *The Coral Island* and *Lord of the Flies* and to study the depiction of childhood, mainly of adolescent boyhood therein.
2. To study the two novels from the literary perspectives such as setting, characterization, genre, thematic concerns and most important, the authorial intent, comparing and contrasting all these as the study progressed.

3. To study how society in general and the two writers in particular have constructed the concept of 'childhood' in their own time periods as per the prevalent modes of thinking and the qualities they associate with the concept.
4. To try to understand the rising instances of aggression and violent behavior among children, mainly adolescent, pre-adolescent boys, to gauge the reasons behind this and to study them in connection to the two novels as they too are preoccupied with violence and with understanding the meaning, nature and origin of evil.

#### **11. WHETHER OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED:**

(GIVE DETAILS)

A comprehensive comparative study between the two novels was undertaken, keeping the objectives in mind, with detailed chapter-wise summary and analysis of the two novels under scrutiny. The in-depth exploration of the similarities between the two novels, namely those of setting, situation, age group and other factors was conducted. Similarly, the differences between the two novels in terms of central themes, characterization, plot design, tone, treatment and authorial intent were analyzed in detail too.

The chief methodology adopted for the study was close reading and analysis with inputs from critical material available on both the books under study; analysis based on the genres utopia and dystopia; relevant discussion of psychological schools of thought and material drawn from newspapers and magazines wherever relevant. There was no field-work involved, no interviews and questionnaires used, although the researcher felt it incumbent to discuss certain issues with fellow academicians and parents in order to get sufficient objective feedback and insight in the matter of child behavior.

The study of the comparisons and contrasts between the two novels was an enriching experience for the researcher as the exploration of the themes and other literary issues brought about an understanding of several underlying aspects embedded in the works. The naïveté, patriotism, religious didacticism and the absolute belief in the power of love and friendship seen in the writing of one author was thrown into sharp relief by the disillusionment, realization of human frailty, the human thirst for power and realization of the existence of evil prevalent and intrinsic to all human beings regardless of their age or the other. While the earlier novel is utopian and optimistic to

the extreme, one can only hope that the violence, bloodlust and moral corruption, depicted by the latter is another extreme too while wishing for a golden mean which hopes for betterment, accepts weakness and understands what human nature can sink to.

The research project assisted the researcher in understanding the fact that human society will never be able to rid itself of evil as it is an unalterable component of its very existence. Children, due to their impressionable age and innocence, fall an easy prey to it and need adult guidance to combat it. Unfortunately, as the adults are engaged in their own struggles for power and supremacy by use of violence, children imitating them has become the norm rather than the exception.

## **12. ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT:**

Though no research paper or a doctoral research arose out of this research project, it directly provided an impetus to the researcher to engage in doctoral research in another topic in the area of children's literature.

The findings from this research project will no doubt benefit the readers and the society in understanding certain psycho-social phenomena pertaining to the rising incidents of violence the world over but on an individual level, the collection and reading of primary and secondary source, rumination and putting thoughts on paper have been a rich, rewarding and therapeutic experience to the researcher.

## **13. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS:**

The two novels studied in this research project are classics and have received immense readership and critical acclaim. The earlier novel, *The Coral Island* written by R.M. Ballantyne in 1857, is an adventure tale featuring three young, clean-cut, British boys shipwrecked on a coral island, their adventures, their encounters with bloodthirsty savages and pirates culminating in a neatly tied conclusion. Ballantyne was full of Victorian ideals of the purity and innocence of childhood; the power of love and goodness conquering all evil; the majesty of the British Empire and the ultimate victory of Christianity over paganism.

William Golding's *Lord Of The Flies* on the other hand, is a much more profound, complex and disturbing novel as it exposes human nature at its worst and most

hideous. Golding had read Ballantyne's novel and was struck by its idealism and extreme faith in the goodness of humanity. His novel, written a hundred years after Ballantyne's, had known the atrocities perpetrated during the two world wars and man's inhumanity to man in the name of patriotism, honour and bravery. Against such a backdrop, the earlier novel seeming to be a flight of fancy, Golding decided to write his own version of it.

Upon undertaking a close reading and analysis of the novels and after having explored their similarities and differences in terms of themes, characterization, imagery, symbolism and linguistic minutiae, the researcher has arrived at some conclusions which are as follows:

1) Both novels feature young, British boys as protagonists whose reactions to being marooned on an island without adult supervision and their interpersonal relationships form the backdrop of the action.

2) Both novels deal with the meaning, nature and origin of evil. In *The Coral Island* it is the cannibalistic, pagan tribals and savage pirates who are the face of evil, while *Lord of the Flies* recognizes that it resides inside the small, seemingly innocent British schoolboys.

3) Ballantyne has faith in the goodness of his heroes; is full of patriotic, nationalistic ideals and firmly believes that Christianity can convert the violent tribals into an obedient flock. Golding has no faith left in his boys as the only innocent and saintly children have been brutally murdered by the remaining boys, who, far from pure and innocent, by stripping off their uniforms and painting their faces, have retreated into savagery.

4) Both novels deal with issues of power and leadership. Inherent in *The Coral Island* is the idea of British supremacy as the novel was written in the heyday of the British Empire. Thus, though the three boys are captured by pirates and imprisoned by the savage natives, by virtue of their being white and British, they are shown to be the morally superior representatives of a higher world order. In *Lord of the Flies*, power and control are the issues which create antagonism between Ralph and Jack right at the outset. While Ralph tries to be democratic, responsible and caring, Jack and his hunters enjoy being savages, have plenty of food and fire too which make them

stronger and more powerful but Jack, once having ventured on the path to escalating violence, will not be satisfied till he has eliminated Ralph completely.

5) The driving forces of the earlier novel are love, unity and piety while in the latter they are power, control and a mad euphoria arising out of unbridled violence.

6) The most important finding of this research project is the fact that children, at all times are keen observers and copy the behaviour of adults. Jack, the antagonist in *Lord of the Flies* has learned from the adult world indulging in a war of supremacy that power and its assertion is the most important objective of life. Like the fictitious Jack, real-life juvenile delinquents and underage criminals are not really to blame for their deeds as they are simply mirroring the actions of the adults around them. The onus is upon the adults of this world to present to the children a clean, strife-free world, to provide them with good role models and to preserve their innocence which is their right and privilege.

#### **14. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY:**

(GIVE DETAILS)

An important objective behind this study was to understand the increasing instances of aggression, delinquency and violent behaviour among boys of adolescent and pre-adolescent age. The shocking fact is that some of the most vicious and violent murders were carried out by children, particularly boys who were as young as eight years old. They committed these murders for no apparent reason other than for the pleasure of hurting. Sadly, the youngest such murderer is an Indian boy from Bihar, eight years old, who killed three infants related to him.

The two novels under study, in their different ways, attempt to explore the nature and origin of evil and to define why man feels compelled to be cruel to fellow man. *Lord Of The Flies* in particular underlines the fact that ALL persons, regardless their age and socio-cultural background, are capable of unlimited cruelty as the Devil or evil is not an external entity found in the jungle or in the dark but is an intrinsic, inherent part of all human beings. Though societal norms, education, civilization and religion provide us with a persona, a mask to hide the primitive, ugly and evil face, some accidental trigger is enough to tear the mask and unleash the devilish murderous

beast within. This is the central message which Simon, the sensitive, saintly, innocent boy learns from 'the lord of the flies' or Beelzebub in Golding's novel which the researcher wishes to understand. We as individuals, parents, professionals and society as a whole need to understand the potential to evil inside all of us, to accept it and to try and keep it under control.

The fact that evil is inherent to humanity as a whole has also been corroborated by various psychological theories and by Dr Sigmund Freud's concept of the 'Id'. As a society this study would help us identify, understand and sublimate violent impulses. We the academicians and parents need to help society realize this by helping everyone understand child psychology better.

**15. WHETHER ANY PH.D. ENROLLED/PRODUCED OUT OF THE PROJECT:**

**No**

**16. NO. OF PUBLICATIONS OUT OF THE PROJECTS: One**  
**(PLEASE ATTACH RE-PRINT)**

MS. SUNITA KULKARNI

(PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)