

E-ISSN 2582-5429

SJIF Impact - 5.675

# **AKSHARA**

## **MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH JOURNAL**

Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal

**October 2023 Special Issue 09 Volume VI**

मेरी माटी  
मेरा देश



**Chief Editor**  
**Dr. Girish S. Koli**



**Akshara Multidisciplinary Research Journal**

Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal

October 2023

Special Issue 09 Volume VI

Scientific Journal of Impact Factor (SJIF) Impact-5.67



TOGETHER WE REACH THE GOAL

International Impact Factor Services



International Society for Research Activity (ISRA)  
Journal-Impact-Factor (JIF)



Digital Online Identifier-  
Database System

An International Digital and Virtual Library



**Akshara Publication**

Plot No 143 Professors colony,

Near Biyani School, Jamner Road, Bhusawal Dist Jalgaon Maharashtra 425201

**Index**

Sr.No	Title of the Paper	Author's Name	Pg.No
1	Representation of Women In Legislatures and Local Body Representation As a Source of Political Empowerment for Women	Dr.D.S.V.S.Balasubrahmanyam	05
2	Role of North East Region of India in India's Foreign Relations	Dr. M. Esther Kalyani Asirvadam	11
3	The Impact of an open Economy and Closed Economy on International Business	Dr.Kalpana Vaidya	15
4	Analysis of India China bilateral trade relations	Abhishek Shukla Dr. Smriti Jain	23
5	A Study of Logical Reasoning of Secondary Schools Students With Reference to Certain Variables	Sanjay M. Vania Dr. J. K. Talati	28
6	Doctrine of Pleasure Under Constitution of India	Anju	31
7	Development of Right to Information	Dr. Madhukar F. Rautrahe	35
8	A Study on Banking Innovation to Improve Customer Base with Reference to ICICI Bank, Bangalore	GEETHA. R	37
9	Communal Disharmony in Mahesh Dattani's Play 'Final Solutions'	Dr. Sidhartha B. Sawant	45
10	Sports Policies and Importance of Sports in Life: An Research Study	Prof. Dr. Pandurang J.Gote	50
11	Vanity and Class Discrimination in Jane Austen's classic <i>Emma</i> .	Mitalee Khivaiya Ahire	55
12	The Influence of Single Parenting on Students' Academic Performance in Secondary Schools in Ratlam City	Soniya Rai	57
13	The Role of Indian Languages, Arts and Culture to Strengthen Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education through NEP 2020	Dr.Narendra Dinkar Mahale	62
14	अभिमन्यु अनंत कृत 'लाल पसीना' उपन्यास में चित्रित नारी शोषण	वि अमुधा डॉ अनुराधा पाकलापाटि	66
15	मानवीय धर्म-प्रयोजन अथवा प्रेरणा	डॉ.मंजु अरोरा	70
16	कृष्ण काव्यधारा में कृष्ण का महत्व	डॉ.डी.जयभारती	74
17	मनोहर श्याम जोशी के उपन्यासों में चित्रित सामाजिक जीवन का यथार्थ	हनी कुमारी वर्मा	76
18	वाल्मीकि रामायण में स्त्री-विमर्श	किरण गौड़ / डॉ. अशोक कुमार	80
19	उच्च शिक्षा की चुनौतियाँ एवं समाधान : भारत के सन्दर्भ में	डॉ. अशोक कुमार श्रीमती पिकी सैणी	83
20	'अन्या से अनन्या' प्रभा खेतान की आत्मकथा का चिंतनात्मक अध्ययन:	डॉ. अंजीर नथ्यू भील	86

**Vanity and Class Discrimination in Jane Austen's classic *Emma*.**

Mitalce Khivaiya Ahire  
Research Scholar  
KBCNMU, Jalgaon

**Abstract:**

*Jane Austen is a writer of varied interests and multiple talents. Her writings have the various themes related to society. Emma, one of the well celebrated works of Jane Austen is also not an exclusion. The protagonist of the titular name is a strong headed, independent and beautiful young lady who takes matchmaking of those around her very seriously without their consideration. During her matchmaking endeavours a part of her nature is revealed which shows how her psyche is dominated by the social status she enjoys, resulting in superiority complex and various problems in relationships because of that. Her interactions with other characters she cross path with are subtly biased by her vanity and the result is evident through her class discrimination mentality. This research work is an attempt to capture the social reality marred by vanity and class discriminative attitude.*

**Key words:** psyche, domination, class discrimination, attitude etc.

**Introduction**

Jane Austen's novel *Emma* published in 1815 is now read worldwide and celebrated as authors one of the greatest works though it was not a huge success when it was published. Several movies dramas, stage plays, television series have been made based on the novel which now enjoys the status of being a classic. Like most of the Austen's novels, *Emma* is a novel whose protagonist is a woman who is a strong and independent thinker. She is not submissive to the pressure and expectations of the contemporary society which gave very little room for the women to express themselves and showcase their inherent talents. Like the society, the protagonist *Emma* was not perfect either despite being strong headed. Sometimes there's a very thin line between being confident and overconfident or proud. We often see characters crossing this line, especially *Emma*.

*Emma* considers her matchmaking skills in high regards which more often than not is in contrary to the reality. Her claim of being responsible for the marriage of her governess Miss Taylor and Mr. Weston is one of the examples where the illusive nature of *Emma* dominates her conscience and she ends up claiming things in which she had played a negligible role. Mr. George Knightley's opinion about this matter is worth paying attention to because it has a realistic approach to deal with the issue. "Mr. Knightley, in fact was one of the few people who could see faults in *Emma* Woodhouse, and the only one who ever told her of them". Mr. Knightley has the unique ability to deflate *Emma*'s vanity by contradicting her claim that she had made the match between Miss Taylor and Mr. Weston. Mr. Knightley points of that *Emma* had merely made lucky gas so far as this match was concerned, and that she had played no role in arranging the match. Mr. Knightley acts as an agent who shows mirror to the *Emma* but *Emma* had no interest in buying Mr. Knightley's ideas about reality. She says, "Mr. Knightley loves to find fault with me – in a joke. We always say what we like to one another" (Austen 79)

*Emma* is blinded by her vanity to an extent that she engages herself in match making activities without the consent of other people around her. She thinks herself to be capable to know one better than oneself. Her illusion nature is now playing it's part to convince her that she can find a suitable match for the local vicar Mr Elton. Harriet Smith who happens to be of an unknown parentage, she is a nice person according to *Emma*. She thinks Harriet Smith is a suitable match for Mr. Elton. This thinking is mainly based on helping Harriet to move higher in the social class by marrying a person like Mr. Elton who enjoys a dignified place in the social strata then. While arranging this match for Harriet, *Emma* totally rejects Harriet's liking for Mr. Martin just because he is a farmer.

Her basis of marriage is not the mutual love, affection and compatibility as it should be but it is the very need she feels for Harriet to move upwards in social class. Harriet's parentage is unknown but Emma somehow believes that Harriet's unknown father must have been a gentleman. She is there desperate to detach Harriet from the Martin family to whom the girl has been greatly attached for many months. Her rejection of Mr. Robert Martin shows Emma's social snobbery. The attitude Emma showed while judging Martin is a representative of the mentality of rich people then who were bound by the superiority complex and totally ignored human virtues. Mr Knightley was of the opposite opinion, he thought Harriet and Martin should be married. His explanation after listening to Emma's opinions is very thoughtful. He says, "No, Mr. Martin is not her equal indeed, for he is as much her superior in sense as in situation. Emma, your infatuation about that girl blinds you. What are Harriet Smith's claims, either of birth, nature or education, to any connection higher than Robert Martin? She is the natural daughter of nobody knows whom, with probably no settled provision at all, and certainly no respectable relations. She is not a sensible girl, nor a girl of any information. She has been taught nothing useful, and is too young and too simple to have acquired anything herself" (Austen 152)

Emma's vanity and class discrimination is also seen in her treatment of Coles. She thinks it is beneath her dignity to mix with them because they have risen to wealth from much lower position. However, she attends the party organised by Coles not because she has changed but because all others in the village have accepted the invitation for the party. Emma is also shown to be jealous towards Jane Fairfax because she is intelligent, well educated, beautiful with pleasant personality. Emma's vanity doesn't allow her to appreciate Jane's virtues fully. Though she knew her from childhood, she never was friendly towards her because of her feelings of jealousy and insecurity.

**Conclusion:**

Emma's own wealth and status play a significant role in her interactions with others, and the novel delves into the complexities of relationships across different social classes. Emma's vanity can be said to be a result of the social status she enjoys. The pressures of society and the expectations placed on individuals to conform to societal norms can be seen. Characters struggle with the desire for social acceptance and the limitations imposed by societal expectations.

**References:**

- Austen, Jane. *Emma*. Simon & Schuster, 2005.  
Hardy, Barbara. *A Reading of Jane Austen*. Continuum International Publishing Ltd., 2000.  
Southam, B.C. *Critical Essays on Jane Austen*. Taylor and Francis. 2003.