

**VICTIMHOOD OF DISPLACEMENT: EXPLORING THE PARALLELISM
BETWEEN THE COVID-19 VICTIMS AND VIKRAM SETH'S CHARACTER**

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Abstract

In Vikram Seth's novel, *A Suitable Boy*, the themes of post-modernism, post-colonialism, and migration are intricately interwoven with the personal memories of the characters. This article delves into how Seth has masterfully incorporated these aspects into his work. *A Suitable Boy* explores themes of religious intolerance, love, marriage, and arranged marriage against the backdrop of post-British rule India in the early 1950s, during the India-Pakistan partition. The novel delves into the psychological struggles faced by individuals during this tumultuous time, drawing parallels to the challenges faced by characters like Lata. The purpose of this article is to shed light on the ongoing debate surrounding migration in the midst of the pandemic. It examines the concept of displacement and draws parallels between the experiences of COVID-19 victims and characters in Seth's novel. By delving into the inner psyche of the characters, the article highlights the clash of cultures and the struggle for identity that arises from displacement. The novel's characters face similar challenges to COVID-19 victims, emphasizing displacement. The article compares the hardships faced by migrants and the barriers they face, drawing parallels to the pandemic's impact. It specifically highlights the plight of COVID-19 victims and the struggles they face due to displacement, highlighting the similarities between the experiences of migrants and those affected by the current global crisis.

Keywords: COVID-19, Partition, Religious Intolerance, Migration, Displacement.

Introduction

Indian authors like Amitav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri, Chinmay Tumble, Khushwant Singh, Amrita Pritam, and Deepak K. Mishra have extensively explored the theme of migration in their works. Ghosh's novels, such as *Gun Island*, *The Glass Palace*, and *Sea of Poppies*, provide insightful perspectives on migration. Lahiri's works, like *The Namesake* and *The Lowland*, explore the complexities of migration. Tumble's *India Moving: A History of Migration* provides a comprehensive look at migration patterns in India. Singh's "Train to Pakistan" and Pritam's *Pinjar* highlight the impact of migration on individuals and communities. Mishra's *Inter*

Migration in Contemporary India further contributes to the discourse on migration in literature. These authors have skillfully woven narratives that address the challenges and opportunities associated with migration. Through their works, they not only highlight the diasporic experiences but also offer solutions to the issues faced by migrants. Indian English literature, as reflected in the works of these writers, serves as a powerful medium for exploring identity and cultural nuances. The authors discuss the challenges faced by migrants and the issues surrounding their migration experiences.

“Indian English literature is a contest over the nature, identity and ultimate destiny of modern India. Of late, the realistic, modernistic, pessimistic mode of the first three decades of post-independence writing is giving way to a non-representational, experimental, self-conscious, and optimistic literature. But the real challenge the writers of today to face is the enforced homogenization and standardization of culture due to globalization” (Paranjape, 1049).

This article explores the challenges of migration and its connection to the COVID-19 pandemic. Migration is a significant issue in many countries, with governments providing security, food, housing, and employment opportunities. Countries like India have welcomed migrants from Burma, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka, offering security and job opportunities. Indian authors who have migrated to countries like America, Canada, Australia, and England have shared their experiences, providing unique insights into the mental and emotional struggles faced by migrants. These authors have experienced similar challenges themselves when moving from their native country to a new one.

This novel spans 1349 pages and has garnered criticism from some literary critics. The author dedicated years to its completion, and various other authors have shared their perspectives on the work. *“as critics debated the issue of the book's length, some found it a hindrance, and others deemed it appropriate, though unwieldy. According to Jill Rachlin of people, although the author intended *A suitable boy* to be the first novel of a set of five, his first draft was close to two thousand pages. "after cutting it by a third," Rachlin reported, "he tried to divide it into two or three separate books. 'it didn't break in any right point,' he says with a laugh, 'so I was stuck with this monster”* (Rachlin). During his presentation, he delved into the rich culture and traditions of India, emphasizing their significant role in the Indian marriage system. He highlighted the strict adherence to marrying within one's own caste and religious community, underscoring the importance placed on upholding these traditions. Furthermore, he shed light on the distinctions between the higher and lower castes within Indian society. *“The novel alternately offers satirical and earnest examinations of national political issues in the period leading up to the first post-independence national [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1951%E2%80%939352 Indian general election"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1951%E2%80%939352_Indian_general_election) election [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1951%E2%80%939352 Indian general election"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1951%E2%80%939352_Indian_general_election) [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1951%E2%80%939352 Indian general election"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1951%E2%80%939352_Indian_general_election) on of 1952, including Hindu–Muslim strife, the status of lower caste peoples such as the Jatay, land reforms, and the eclipse of the feudal princes and landlords, academic affairs, abolition of the zamindari system, family relations and a range of further issues of importance to the*

characters” (A Suitable Boy). Seth skillfully portrays the political disenfranchisement between Hindus and Muslims, focusing on four families and their prominent figures. He also highlights the challenges faced by Indian women in their marriages, especially regarding restrictions on marrying individuals from higher castes.

The novel *A Suitable Boy* is compared to the current pandemic situation, highlighting similarities between the novel and the challenges faced during the pandemic. The novel explores major issues like Hindu-Muslim relations, similar to the interactions during the pandemic. Oxford student Helen Holden emphasizes the novel's vastness and suggests viewing it as a journey rather than focusing solely on the ending. *“In such a long novel it has to be the journey, rather than simply the destination, that excites. Bookending the novel with two weddings in the same family underlines how Seth’s India is a place of transition”* (Holden). This article explores the post-corona era following the pandemic, highlighting the ongoing conflict between citizens and politicians. It highlights the importance of nature in this challenging period. The article also discusses the post-corona aspects in Vikram Seth's novel, highlighting how he skillfully uses various techniques to effectively convey his message.

This article examines the profound impact of a novel and the pandemic on individuals, focusing on migration and its effects. It uses various themes to draw comparisons with the current situation. Simon McDonald praised the novel as a brilliant work, highlighting the challenges faced by newly independent India. The article aims to provide an overview of the current situation. *“the novel marries familial and political drama, flavored with plenty of local colors, and despite its enormity, never feels overstuffed. it’s a literary colossus, a brilliant book, that didn’t quite hit the same high notes for me as Rohinton Mistry’s a fine balance, but is nonetheless a novel I’ll remember reading for the rest of my life”* (Simon).

Aspect of Self-actualization

The article explores the self-actualization theory, which is based on five categories: physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided migrants with an opportunity to understand and embrace their identities. Jeevan argues that meeting these needs leads to positive choices and fulfilling lives, as they determine how we live our lives. *“He called these latter needs “Being Needs” or B-needs and the former four needs “Deficient Needs” or D-needs. He claimed that mentally healthy individuals follow a path called growth motivation that allowed them to move up this hierarchy from D-needs to B-needs. As individuals follow this path they feel more fulfilled, their attention shifts from self-interest to selflessness, and they dedicate more time to causes outside of themselves and family”* (D’Souza 4). The article delves into the journey of Lata, a person seeking safety, love, and self-actualization, highlighting the psychological challenges and self-discovery they face. It underscores the complexities of human relationships and the significance of personal growth in achieving fulfillment.

Bruce King stated that the struggle for freedom is necessary in order to make a rational and informed choice. *“the reader might think that by smiling approvingly at such a match. Seth favors traditional arranged marriages, but the point rather is that the young women like India*

struggle for freedom only to make a sensible choice is a contract to the lives around her which are being ruined by romantic fantasies, wild sexual common sense, practicality is the message, not mindless, prejudiced traditionalism” (king, 431). The novel follows Lata Mehra, a 19-year-old unmarried girl whose mother, Mrs. Rupa Mehra, is actively seeking a suitable match. Despite Lata's feelings for other men being dismissed, her mother is determined to arrange a marriage. In the novel, Indian women have more freedom due to education and awareness of right and wrong. Lata, an educated English literature student, understands the world beyond her mother's restrictions, but her mother continues to impose barriers when she tries to break free from her control.

The novel's characters undergo self-actualization and overcome challenges during the pandemic, highlighting the profound impact of the crisis on individuals. The novel shares similarities with real-life experiences, such as caste and religion discrimination and the coronavirus battle. The psychological toll of hospitalization is immense, highlighting the interconnectedness of human experiences and the psychological impact of the pandemic worldwide. The novel serves as a reminder of the resilience and strength displayed by people in the face of adversity, both in fiction and reality.

The Concept of Migration

A Suitable Boy by Vikram Seth explores the theme of migration, as a mother and daughter search for a suitable match. This theme is relevant to the global situation, where people are migrating to escape the coronavirus, causing immense suffering and making difficult decisions to survive. Drawing parallels between the novel and real-life events, both scenarios highlight the struggles faced by individuals in times of crisis. The pandemic has resulted in job losses, displacement, and food insecurity, forcing many to return to their hometowns for support. Set against the backdrop of the 1950s, *A Suitable Boy* captures a period marked by the aftermath of partition, where countless women endured unimaginable hardships. During this tumultuous time, between 75,000 and 100,000 women were subjected to unspeakable atrocities, including abduction, rape, and forced marriage. The novel serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by individuals in the midst of social and political upheaval, shedding light on the resilience and courage displayed in the face of adversity.

In 1947, according to social worker Scott, “*women were distributed in the same way the baskets of oranges or grapes are sold or gifted*” (Scott, 58). The pandemic has highlighted the importance of developing humanity and compassion, not just money. This novel depicts the hardships faced by a mother and daughter due to migration, as people were forced to flee the coronavirus. The characters migrate to find a suitable match for their daughter.

The pandemic has significantly impacted society, shifting our priorities from earning money to preserving cultural heritage. In India, migrant workers have faced difficulties in transportation, leading to the loss of original traditions. Many have had to adapt to new ways of life, such as walking or cycling. Seth's work highlights the importance of preserving cultural heritage amidst the challenges of migration, referencing works like Koran's epic, Urdu poets' Ghazals, and Tagore's works. “*Seth alludes to the Indian epics, Koran, Ghajals of Urdu poets, and Tagore's philosophical conversations in the course of the story. it is steeped in Indian*

culture and its practices. one feels that Vikram Seth is a spokesman of India's cultural heritage and national identity" (Rajagopalachary & Krishnaiah, 1). The article explores the theme of migration, highlighting the hardships faced by individuals. Migration has been a historical trend, dating back to the partition era when Hindus and Muslims sought refuge due to Hindu-Muslim conflict. It compares past and present migration patterns, highlighting the challenges faced by individuals in navigating different regions.

The novel, *A Suitable Boy*, explores the theme of migration and the pandemic's impact on individuals returning to their homelands. It highlights the challenges and complexities faced by those uprooting their lives amid a global crisis. The novel explores the motivations behind migration, the methods used, and the scale of individuals affected by these circumstances, providing valuable insights into the human experience during these tumultuous times. The novel provides a comprehensive understanding of the current state of affairs. The novel follows a mother and daughter as they move from Delhi to Calcutta to find a suitable match for their daughter's marriage. Their journey mirrors the hardships faced by many in their quest for a better life. The novel highlights the parallel between fiction and reality, highlighting the challenges faced by individuals in navigating uncertain circumstances. The Guardian article compares the works of Salman Rushdie and Vikram Seth, highlighting their unique perspectives on the human experience in the face of adversity. Overall, the novel *A Suitable Boy* serves as a poignant reflection of the complexities of migration and the resilience of individuals in the face of unprecedented challenges. Through its exploration of these themes, the novel offers a compelling narrative that resonates with readers grappling with similar experiences in the current global landscape.

"Indian writing was still in the thrall of Salman Rushdie, but A Suitable Boy owed nothing to Rushdie's manically inventive magic realism. It was written with the clarity and leisureliness, the almost forgotten confidence, of a Victorian novel. it is a love story with little love and no sex" (The Guardian).

People at Pandemic Situation

The novel *A Suitable Boy* explores the struggles of lower caste individuals during the pandemic, who are oppressed by the higher caste. The novel highlights the lack of justice for these individuals, who are treated as slaves. The Hindu higher caste suppresses the Muslim lower caste, leading to conflict. This parallels the situation during the pandemic, where wealthy individuals stay home to avoid exposure. The novel serves as a reminder of the struggles faced by individuals during this challenging time. *"Partition was followed by the Hindu-Muslim riots, where human values suffered and lost all relevance. In this loss, the accepted concepts of tolerance and faith were completely shattered. The common human instinct was overtaken by the law of the jungle. This was followed by a two-way migration of the population on an unprecedented scale. Those who attempted to seek shelter in their respective strongholds"* (Sehgal, 93). During the lockdown, financial hardships were experienced by many, especially among different religious communities. Lower-income Muslim communities faced significant challenges and marginalization, while higher religious groups enjoyed benefits and a peaceful lifestyle. This inequality underscores the need for increased support and resources to ensure equal opportunities for success and well-being.

The pandemic underscores the need for unity in addressing threats like the coronavirus, highlighting that caste and religion are irrelevant. Both threats can cause destruction, emphasizing the urgency of unity. Despite religious and caste boundaries, humans have united to offer support, highlighting the importance of shared humanity over divisions based on caste and religion. *A Suitable Boy* is a novel that portrays the oppression of Muslims by the higher caste community, highlighting the negative effects of societal hierarchies. The pandemic serves as a lesson that pride in one's caste or religion is misplaced. The story of Lata's mother's search for a suitor reflects societal pressures and prejudices. The pandemic highlights the need for mutual understanding and compassion, and humanity's importance in the world. The novel *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth highlights the oppressive nature of religious discrimination in the 1950s, a theme that persists in contemporary society. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these issues, highlighting the need for equality. Author Prapti Shah discusses the novel's post-colonial and post-modern perspectives, highlighting the significant changes and lessons it has taught. The novel serves as a reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by individuals in post-independence India. *“it is an ordinary story, conveyed extraordinarily. To the very core, it is a romantic tale, but there lies a plethora of nuances etched into it”* (shah, June 29, 2021)

Religious Intolerance

The pandemic has led to a rise in religious intolerance globally, affecting India and other countries. This theme is central to a novel that explores the barriers imposed by faith differences, hindering characters Lata and Kabir from pursuing their true desires. The current situation in India has led to blaming religious groups for the virus's spread, exacerbated by a divisive mindset that hinders unity among religious communities. The novel explores Lata's mother's prejudice against a lower caste Muslim boy, causing obstacles in her relationship with Kabir. Despite initial affection, societal norms and religious differences drive them apart. The story highlights the deep-rooted biases and expectations Indian parents have regarding their children's partner choices. It underscores the impact of religious intolerance and societal expectations on individuals' lives and the need for understanding, acceptance, and unity in adversity. Recognizing and addressing religious intolerance is crucial for a more inclusive and compassionate society. *“these resolutions, seemingly incongruous with the temperaments of the characters-for instance, the rebellious Lata or the quirky Amit, are humorous because they are bizarre. Yet, they offer an astute insight into a central preoccupation of most Indian parents and guardians, namely to seek out a suitable match for their wards based on a set of socially determined criteria”* (Majumdar p 911). During the pandemic, higher caste individuals in India harbored hatred towards lower caste individuals, blaming them for not following lockdown protocols. This division is crucial to effectively combat the challenges posed by the pandemic, emphasizing the need to recognize and address these societal divisions.

The ongoing pandemic has highlighted the impact of religious intolerance on individuals, with the Indian government implementing measures to combat the virus. However, eradicating the virus remains a challenge. Author Seth's novel *A Suitable Boy* calls for greater religious tolerance, emphasizing unity and understanding among different faiths. Despite religious differences, compassion and empathy are crucial in navigating these challenging

times. The novel underscores the importance of unity and understanding in overcoming religious intolerance. *“it is an insult to Hinduism that these people have hijacked what it means to be Hindu, “he said intolerance, Understanding-Enjoy just trying to bash your neighbor over the head because he is Muslim”* (Amit, Raghavan, spring 1999). The pandemic has highlighted the importance of addressing other pressing issues, such as religious intolerance in India since the 1950s. It has become clear that one's religion or caste does not determine their worth as a person, as other pressing issues have also arisen due to religious intolerance.

During the global crisis, frontline workers, including nurses, doctors, cleaners, and drivers, united to save lives despite religious differences. Their tireless efforts showcased dedication and compassion, demonstrating the best of humanity. The coronavirus has taught valuable lessons about unity and the importance of working together for the greater good of humanity. This pandemic has showcased the best in humanity and demonstrated the power of unity. *A Suitable Boy* is a novel that delves into the complex relationship between religion and love, highlighting the challenges of navigating societal expectations and personal desires in a diverse society. The story of Muslim doctors saving Hindu lives exemplifies compassion and unity, while the pandemic underscores the importance of humanity over religious or caste differences.

Overall, the pandemic has highlighted the importance of unity, compassion, and understanding in overcoming challenges, regardless of religious or cultural differences. It serves as a reminder that in times of crisis, we are all united in our humanity *“set in 1951-52, the narrative travels in the scenario of a newly independent India, upper-classes of the upper-class people were still influenced by the British and the mainland was to taste the first shock of sectarian violence”* (The India book store 2013)

Citizens and Politicians

The novel follows a political conflict between citizens and politicians, with Home Minister Agarwal at the center of a governmental inquiry over police handling of a riot. Begum Abida Khan, a prominent Muslim MP, attacks Agarwal during a parliamentary session, escalating tensions. The Bihar Zamindari Act, a contentious issue, divides those who gain land from those who risk losing their valuable holdings. The conflict affects Begum's family's livelihood, and the current pandemic situation demonstrates how lockdown measures disproportionately affect the economically disadvantaged. The government's efforts to repatriate stranded individuals contrast with the lack of support for daily wage earners seeking to return to their hometowns.

The novel highlights a political injustice where marginalized groups are overlooked, while the ruling elite benefits. It highlights the harsh reality of those without political favor being left to fend for themselves without government assistance. Seth discusses corruption in India during the Congress party's rule, exacerbated by the involvement of Pran's father in politics. *“the reader is offered a large picture of the corrupted world Indian politics after independence, with Nehru trying to hold the reins of the Congress party”* (Sánchez, 49). During the ongoing pandemic, a significant conflict has arisen between politicians and the general populace. Many individuals have lost their jobs, leaving them without a source of income.

Unfortunately, the government has not provided any relief funds to assist those in need, resulting in widespread suffering among the population.

The novel *A Suitable Boy* explores the disparity between the wealthy and the less fortunate, with politicians often prioritizing the interests of the wealthy elite. This highlights the gap between people and elected officials, emphasizing the need for individuals to take responsibility for their well-being during challenging times. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of self-reliance and resilience, as many people have persevered through hard work and resilience without relying on government assistance. In a thought-provoking article published in the *Erasmus Law Review*, Barbara Pozzo discusses the abolition of feudalism in India as portrayed in *A Suitable Boy*. This analysis delves into the complex dynamics between government officials and the general population, emphasizing the need for greater awareness and advocacy for social justice “*At the same time and consequently, zamindars considered that they were entitled to levy several miscellaneous Cusses, like Jalkar and Balkar, or levies on water and forest produce, and poll taxes on men, as well as taxes on marriages and births*” (Pozzo p48).

Literature Survey

This article explores the concept of diaspora and migration during the pandemic, focusing on the displacement experienced by individuals. Authors like Amitav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri, Chinmay Tumbbe, Khushwant Singh, Amrita Pritam, and Deepak K. Mishra have explored these topics. Diasporic and expatriate individuals can be categorized into those born in India and settled abroad, and those born abroad and settled in India. These individuals understand the complexities of migration and alienation. “*when an Indian English writer comes in contact with an alien culture, he becomes aware of his rootlessness, and thereby the inadequacy of his mission. He feels that he is a stranger, a foreigner, and an expatriate. Confrontation with the west leads him to a discovery of his own country, of himself. The concept of Indianans forms an identity for these Indian expatriate writers.*” (Veena 39). These authors have spoken and written a book about migration in India, focusing on the concept of diaspora and the displacement of people from their native land to unfamiliar territories. The diaspora phenomenon has the potential to bring about significant changes in social dynamics, political landscapes, and cultural boundaries.

M.L. Raina's "Home, Homelessness and the Artifice of Memory" explores the impact of diaspora on individuals and communities, highlighting the complexities of belonging and identity when individuals are uprooted and forced to navigate unfamiliar environments. The study of diaspora in India reveals the interplay between personal narratives, societal structures, and historical legacies, providing a deeper understanding of migration's complexities and implications. “*Dislocation can occur as a physical movement from home into alien territory forced by war and persecution. Displacement and exile have enjoyed a special privilege in literature. Bereft of the soul, estranged from the familiar, banished from the community, expelled from the home country, lost in the Diaspora – such tropes have formed a constant axle of poetry and novels for centuries*” (Raina 2007). They possess a clear understanding of Indian migration and the hardships endured by individuals during the migration process. “*COVID-19 has already heavily impacted remittances. The world bank estimates that the amount of money*

migrant workers send home is projected to decline by 14 percent by 2021. Though they forecast a modest recovery thereafter, the decline in remittance is likely to continue the longer the pandemic persists and the higher the potential for unemployment rises” (Maunganidze & Abebe 11). Migration is a process of displacement from one location to another, driven by factors like food scarcity, environmental conditions, government coercion, and employment opportunities. Authors often share their perspectives on migration, highlighting its diverse reasons and the significant differences in the concept from one author to another.

Furthermore, the issue of violence against women is not limited to the current COVID-19 pandemic; it has been a longstanding problem that predates the current crisis. *“It’s important to remember that domestic violence was a global pandemic long before the COVID-19 outbreak. According to data collected by the United Nations Million Women and Girls between the ages of fifteen and forty-nine worldwide were subjected to sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner in the last twelve months”* (Bettinger & Bro 2). Male authors often provide an overview of migration, reflecting their personal feelings. However, female authors focus on women's issues and challenges during migration, offering a unique and insightful perspective on the subject. This shift in perspective highlights the unique experiences of women during migration.

Indian authors frequently explore the theme of migration in their novels, highlighting its complexities and impacts. They emphasize that migration is not limited to international borders but can occur within a country, driven by human instincts for survival and a better future. Their storytelling provides valuable insights into the complexities and challenges of migration, highlighting its profound effects on individuals and societies. *“the primary research work on the corona virus crisis is conducted by the ministry of health through testing, morbidity analysis, tracking of global outbreak hotspots, and contact with foreign and international medical bodies. The ministry works with many research institutions”* (Siman & Even 2). Amitav Ghosh's novel explores the migration struggles of Indian people, highlighting the reasons behind their departure and the challenges they face. Authors with firsthand experience in foreign lands often share similar challenges, focusing on themes of alienation, exile, displacement, and migration. These authors often explore inequality and moral ambiguity within the context of diaspora and migration, as noted by Jasbir Jain. Their works provide a unique perspective on migration and its aftermath. *“Diasporic writing too is double-faced: there is the preoccupation with the home for a variety of different reasons, but there is also the cultural representation of a society...But the major tasks which are incomplete are the attainment of equality, the inability to do away with ghettoization, and to ensure the presence of a dynamic culture of origin....The other extreme is the minority which is denied the privilege of belonging”* (Jasbir p 31-33).

Conclusion

A Suitable Boy by Vikram Seth explores the diasporic condition of individuals living in one place while belonging to another, focusing on themes such as migration, displacement, love, and arranged marriage. The novel's central theme revolves around finding a suitable partner, while the COVID-19 pandemic's main theme is the search for a suitable vaccine. Both characters and real-life individuals face challenges in navigating these situations. By drawing

parallels between the struggles faced by characters and those experienced by COVID-19 patients, we can identify common threads in resilience and perseverance. The protagonist, Lata, faces numerous challenges and setbacks, demonstrating courage and determination. Similarly, COVID-19 patients have endured immense physical and mental anguish, yet they continue to strive for survival. The development of a COVID-19 vaccine serves as a beacon of hope, offering a solution to a seemingly insurmountable problem. The novel and the pandemic share a narrative of struggle and resolution, with Lata finding her suitable partner and COVID-19 patients finding relief through vaccines. Both stories emphasize the importance of perseverance and resilience in overcoming adversity. The novel delves into the challenges of finding a suitable partner, while the pandemic highlights the need to prevent the spread of the virus and prioritize personal and others' well-being. The author explores the harrowing experiences of a family in the 1950s, capturing the uncertainties and complexities of the human psyche. *A Suitable Boy* sheds light on the struggles faced by modern women, highlighting their resilience in the face of adversity. This article offers a glimpse into the realities of survival during the pandemic, showcasing the strength and determination required to navigate such challenging times.

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