

**THE PLOT OF G B PRABHAT'S 'EARLY INDICATIONS' : TRUE TO THE TITLE**Surekha Rani.Kotha ^{1*}, Dr. K.Sandhya²^{1*}(Research Scholar, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.)²(Head & Reader, Dept.of English, Maris Stella College (Autonomous))

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**ABSTRACT**

'Do not pester the children for marks. Every child is an individual. Let him grow as he wishes. Encourage every child's innate talents. Never discourage a growing child' – These are the statements heard everywhere today. Education and growth are interlinked and mutually dependent. Still, very few consider this point and nurture the child in that way. In the olden days, the education was totally neglected. At present, education has become all. Both are the extremes of the society. The reasons for this are either the lack of knowledge of the parenting or the over expectations of the parents irrelevant of the capacity of their offspring. In addition to the awareness of the fact that there are many factors affect the growth of an individual, a capable parent or a teacher gets the hint of 'what one shall turn into', surely in one's childhood, but hardly one percent of the people are able to identify it and guide the children as they wish. The present novel of G B Prabhat shows how the children's talent is identified at the very early age and the need of these findings in one's childhood for shaping one's life. This is a must read novel for every parent.

Keywords: *Kezhavi, Five Geniuses, Childhood, Indications, Parenting, Intimate.***Citation:**

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INTRODUCTION

The novel 'Early Indications' is written by GB Prabhat. He is the founder of Anantara Solutions, and is the original proponent of Second Generation Outsourcing (SGO), a business paradigm that radically improves first generation outsourcing, which is predicated primarily on cost. He is a promising writer from Tamilnadu, has to his credit 3 novels and 16 short stories.

GB Prabhat's *Early Indications* is an imagistic narration of the growth of five children into this society and their settlement in life after teenage. The five children are Shiva, the narrator, Rohit, Kani, Dorai and Sarita. All of these are classmates in their Upper Kindergarten School at Coimbatore. Only these five are the students of that new school with single teacher. The teacher is an old woman, Kezhavi, a Malayali, calls them the Five Geniuses. The teacher is such a kind and generous woman that if there are many students, she may call them also geniuses, in order to motivate the students for the positive. The five children also fondly call her 'Kezhavi' teacher. She observes the innate qualities hidden in these five children and counsels their parents also to encourage such qualities in them. She says to their parents: "The future is intimated early. The responsibility for it is ours. These are five geniuses. Now, do something about them"(Prabhat 19).

'Kezhavi' teacher identifies that Shiva has oratory skills, Rohit has a gift of sprinting, Kani has poetic talent, Dorai has a lot of knowledge in mechanics, cars and all that whereas Sarita has sweet voice to sing. When she discusses the same with their parents, Kani's father shows his resentment towards the poetry and these arts, since he wants to see his son as an engineer. As Dorai's father is a car mechanic and Dorai has some passion for car parts and its mechanism, there is not any disturbance between his innate talent and the future ambition. Coming to Rohit, whose father is running a textile mill, looks like Hercules, a domineering personality in the family, is not at all interested to allow his son to become a player or such sort other than making him the owner of the textile mill. Sarita's father does not like her moving with other boys, even when she is a child. He is quite an orthodox. Contrary to these parents, Shiva's are an exemplary mother and father.

His mother is very generous and tells Shiva to take guard of Rohit, as the latter's father and mother are not able to provide him secure childhood and basic comforts to him. Hence, at the very early age, Shiva feels himself the custodian of Rohit. And, his father is like a friend to him that he always guides his son towards the betterment knowing his interests and giving priority to his intentions. In fact, one finds the most of Shiva's personality is shaped under the shade of his father's orations only. The impact of right parenting is clearly visible by the end of the story.

That evening, after Rohit was gone, I heard my parents whispering furiously to each other. 'I made some enquiries with the neighbours. The boy's father owns a small textile mill... but their family seems to have some sort of problem...', 'said Mother.

'We must ask Shiva to be careful,' said Father.

'I believe he drinks a lot ...'

There was a clearing of throats as I appeared.

'So... what's for dinner tonight?' my father asked.

I pretended I hadn't heard their conversation when, without warning, Mother and Father decided to include me in it.

'Come here, Shiva. You know, Rohit's father may have a problem.'

I came clean. 'I heard you both talking. You were saying he drinks a lot. Drinks what?' Ours being a home of free expression, I did not hesitate to ask them that.

I was then introduced to the notion of alcohol.

'Is that bad?'

'Very,' said Father. 'Don't ever drink ... in your whole life.'

The seemingly innocent act of drinking, hitherto performed without a thought, had been transformed me forever (Prabhat 23).

It is because of Shiva's mother, Rohit frequently visits Shiva's house and Shiva as well as Sarita visits Rohit's house in spite of the cursing attitude of Rohit's father.

As these five children, called 'Five Geniuses' throughout the novel, have grown together, done schooling together and spent their childhood with a lot of freedom. They together have stolen corn, discussed about the Mohini ghost on tamarind tree



and done many things. In their seventh year, they have discovered, beside the grave yard, the Great Well, in which an old tree has grown deep and all these get down the well for chatting while enjoying the stolen cobs of corn, chewing the bubblegum regularly. There is an abandoned empty shack, in which they have lit fire to barbecue the stolen cobs.

For Shiva, the shop-in-the box is a curious person. He sells many things needed to all sorts of people, arranging them neatly in a wooden box. His box is a world to Shiva. He always sells the latest arrivals in the market. Along with Shiva, all the other three, excluding Sarita being a girl, feel friendly with shop-in-box and share their views together. He also, though older than these, mingles in their moments happily as it is his nature.

Among the five geniuses, Shiva, the narrator of the novel, is considered to be the boy of intelligence. All his friends and classmates, including the teachers sometimes, consult Shiva for any clarification regarding their studies. This is also a fetching thing for him as he need not prepare specifically for the examinations sometimes. Regarding Rohit, Shiva himself asks him for combined study as he has to take care of him. Together they roam, live, eat, study and even be aloof from several addictions in such a way that they are known as 'Moral Twins'. Many a time one sees Rohit's decision is what Shiva pronounces from his mouth.

After the plus two is over, joining CF engineering college in Coimbatore is like entering heaven to the students there in those days for it is a gateway to go to USA. Shiva works hard and secures 99 percent, Kani is of forward caste and Dorai manages and Sarita stands next to Shiva, so it is easy for her also to get admission there. Regarding Rohit, his father does not want to send him to higher studies and wants to settle his son as the owner of the textile mill, a decision Rohit obeys though he does not like, because, for him, his father is always a venerated person in spite of the comments he hears from the people around, including Shiva. Later, after two months, Rohit's father, on severe pleadings to the management, joins Rohit also in the same college. This situation makes an initial impact on Rohit's mind that his father has to plead, almost beg, for his admission, whereas all the others have easily

got the seat there. In spite of all these feelings, Shiva encourages him both to study and become a fitful player of basket ball, which Rohit loves in such a way that he gets the conditional acceptance of his father to continue it along with his studies. Rohit struggles to keep the fame of his college by competing with the toughest team of the club basket ball in order to win the Krishna Mohan Trophy, the most prestigious tournament in South India. CF engineering college receives no reputation in the games until the hardships of the champion of the basket ball team, Rohit, secures them the trophy. Shiva, being his guardian, feels it is his own success.

Meanwhile, Kani, happily shares the news that the famous singer-cum-lyric writer of Tamil movies accepts to make use of his latest poem in the forthcoming movie, 'Vayasa Vegama' and his name appears on the silver screen. But, the scene is changed by the release of the movie that Kani's name appears along with the assistants' names and the lays of his poem are changed as the wish of Kavi Thangasami. It is a painful situation to Kani, who is depressed and suppressed out of the politics of life. Dorai, who is addicted to all sorts of bad habits, takes life very easily and resorts to all sorts of things to such an extent that he gets the stamped answer sheets from the college a day prior to the examinations, to write the answers beforehand in order to get through his examinations any way. Yet, he cannot clear all the papers in spite of the coaching of Shiva. Unless these are cleared in three attempts, going abroad would be a nightmare to any student in those days. The only juicy part to share about him is that apart from all of his illegal activities, he makes a turbo charger with the help of his friend, Prasad, a budding industrialist and surprises all the faculty of the college by going to a ride fixing it in one of the cars.

Sarita, with her sweet voice, has already become a famous singer and her face appears in 'The Hindu' and the other papers frequently. Shiva also suddenly arrives with a piece of news that his paper on computational design that he has sent to US for the publication in IEEE, the prestigious journal, is accepted by the publishers. He hopes this makes his way to go to USA clear. The saddest thing here is Shiva does not share his efforts with Rohit this time



unknowingly and it comes as a blow to Rohit's mind for the first time in his life, makes him opine that Shiva gets reputation by overbearing all of them, utilizing all of their weaknesses, as his father tells always, 'That Iyer....'. Hence, he also takes it as an advantage that while presenting a seminar on behalf of his group, he gives fabulous introduction that whole of the college praises him more than Shiva, who is unable to bear with the reputation of his twin friend, Rohit and questions the individual decision of him while doing so. From that time onwards, disgusted of wearing the mask of Shiva, Rohit starts moving with the Second Wing group, who are considered inferior to their group, in order to gain his own identity among his peer group. He has been guiding all of them and makes them also get ready with applications to USA. Now, Rohit is addicted to alcohol and he does not want to imitate Shiva, as he does not want to be one of the Twins', but just like Rohit.

Meanwhile, Sarita proposes Shiva and also reveals him that she is suspecting Rohit loves her and so he has to declare their love to Rohit beforehand in order not to disappoint one of his friends. Shiva dares not to disclose and after one year of her proposal, she herself announces it to Rohit, in the presence of Shiva, that they are going to marry. This comes as the second blow to Rohit and he is totally slides into an illusion that Shiva has made use of his nature for his betterment and develops grudge on him to the extent of an attempt to stab Shiva, a day before Shiva family's permanent shift to Madras. Luckily, Kani helps him and Shiva safely reaches railway station and goes to Madras by Kovai express, where Kani and shop-in-box send him off finally, but not Dorai.

Later, Shiva's attempts to go to USA are not fulfilled. So, he joins Santhome Technologies, a Western Company, and marries Sarita later. In 2003, his company reaches a billion dollar company and wishes to enter into Indian market in 2005. For that purpose, he wishes to visit Coimbatore, after leaving his native place 20 years ago.

In 2004, fortunately, Shiva's family escapes from the attack of Tsunami. This is the narrow escape from the death for the second time for Shiva. This reminds him of his escape from the death for

the first time with the help of Kani, whose letter, he received in 1985, asking him for 10,000 rupees, as the latter is in lot of financial distress, to which he did not respond. Getting all these to mind, he wants to see Pilamedu, Coimbatore, his college, the shack, the great well and also to meet Kani especially, to give him money, during his visit to Coimbatore on his office purpose.

In Coimbatore, he finds everything is replaced with the modern building except Great Well, the Shack and the Bottle Brush plant, which he planted 20years ago. The shop-in-the-box recognises him and informs him that Kani is dead in a road accident, Dorai settles with Prasad's business and Rohit passes time wandering on the streets though his father arranges for him a motor cycle agency. Shiva does not want to meet anyone but, by looking at the large bottle brush, he thinks as if it is the symbol of his emotions, has grown well at last. But, after getting into the train, he scolds himself 'Che' for his lack of concern for the things going around and his indifferent behaviour. He recalls the magic of the golden rays in those college days finally, but is not able to retain them for much of his time.

One finds that, throughout the novel, none of the five geniuses set themselves different goals other than the identified indications made by Kezhavi teacher in their childhood. This shows how much the children believe in the teacher in their very early stages of the studies. One has to remind Kezhavi teacher's talk to their parents here. "The future is intimated early. The responsibility for it is ours. These are five geniuses. Now, do something about them" (Prabhat 19).

Unfortunately, all the geniuses are not able to settle as per the prospect of the teacher. The factors for the failure may be the improper parenting, the financial deficiency and the scarcity of proper guidance. One can easily find out that Rohit is crushed by the improper parenting, Kani suffers from financial deficiency and lack of support and Dorai is totally deviated due to lack of conditioning in life. Contrary to that, Shiva, a properly nurtured one and Sarita, a girl brought up under control, lead their lives happily. The other side of the coin is, rarely one identifies the innate talents of the children in their budding stages like Kezhavi teacher. As a support to



her prediction, none of them tries beyond the teacher's identification. This point is worth-noting here, making the title *Early Indications*, apt to the plot.

The early indications, recognised by *Kezhavi* teacher, are tried out well by all the five geniuses, but these are not moulded properly due to the lack of appropriate parenting. No plant grows well in adverse circumstances though the sun rays, the rain and the nutrient soil for it are available there. Unless it is nurtured and pruned well time to time, it spreads uneven and some day is infected to die. The child is similar to it.

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