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PORTRAYAL OF A CITY: MUMBAI CULTURE IN KIRAN NAGARKAR'S *RAWAN AND EDDIE* AND *THE EXTRAS*



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ABSTRACT

Kiran Nagarkar mixes every possible element of human existence and man's intense affinity with life and its material pleasures. Nagarkar has focused on themes like luck, destiny, self-preservation, hope and personal determination to be experienced in a metro city like Mumbai. These themes are also central to the fictional and nonfictional portrayals of Mumbai by Vikas Swaroop and Suketu Mehta. Nagarkar's two important protagonists Rawan and Eddie, representing Hinduism and Christianity, living side by side in Mumbai's once famous chawl settlement represent the homogeneous nature of the

city. Rawan and Eddie describes the process of growing up in Mumbai chawls and the novel Extras takes account of their grown up life and activities including their Bollywood life as extra actors. In the process of narrating the interesting yet repetitive activities of these two boys and their female counterparts, Nagarkar opens up a treasure of episodes of multicultural Mumbai and several other aspects of human life in Mumbai.

KEYWORDS

Metro city, extras, Chawls, Brass band, Brothels, Studio.