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The Art of Everyday Life: A Thematic Examination of Ruskin Bond's Works

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Abstract:

Through simple language and vivid descriptions, Bond transforms common moments into meaningful reflections on life, nature, and human emotions. The theme of everyday life of common people plays a vital role in Ruskin Bond's literary world. His stories, essays, and novels are deep-rooted in ordinary settings such as small towns, hills side, schools, forests, and quiet homes. The present study involves a close reading and thematic analysis of selected works of Ruskin Bond, including short stories, essays, and novels. The focus is on identifying how ordinary experiences, daily routines, and common characters are represented in his writings. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992 for 'Our Tree Still Grow in Dehra'. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014. Books such as *The Room on the Roof*, *The Blue Umbrella*, *Rain in Mountain* and *The Adventures of Rusty* clearly demonstrate how Bond celebrates life in its simplest form. This thematic examination reflect that Bond's true achievement lies in his ability to find beauty in the ordinary. By focusing on simple moments and ordinary people, he focuses the emotional richness of daily experiences. His writing cleared that literature does not require extraordinary events to be meaningful; rather, it can emerge from routine life and familiar surroundings. Through this thematic examination, it becomes clear that Bond's involvement to literature lies in his ability to turn everyday life into a form of art that is both relatable and enduring.

Keywords: nostalgia, involvement, deep-rooted, achievement, vital.

Introduction:

Ruskin Bond is one of the most famous and well-known Indian writers in English, known for his gentle storytelling and deep connection with ordinary life and nature. His writings do not focus on grand events; instead, they highlight small events, everyday experiences of the common people life. Through simple language and vivid descriptions, Bond transforms common moments into meaningful reflections on life, nature, and human emotions. This quality makes his works great one and relevant to readers of all ages. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992 for 'Our Tree Still Grow in Dehra'. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

The theme of everyday life of common people plays a vital role in Ruskin Bond's literary world. His stories, essays, and novels are deep-rooted in ordinary settings such as small towns, hills side, schools, forests, and quiet homes. Characters in his works are often children, elderly people, shopkeepers, friends, or lonely individuals which we meet in our everyday life, these people who reflect real life rather than fictional heroism. By focusing on these normal figures, Bond highlights the beauty and value of simple living. Ruskin Bond has written more than five hundred short-stories. The important aspect of Bond's writing is his deep emotional sensitivity. He depicts feelings such as loneliness, friendship, nostalgia, love for nature, and the passage of time with morality and warmth. These emotions arise naturally from everyday situations, making readers feels that they personally connected to his stories. Bond's skill to depicts human emotions without overstatement that gives his writing its creative charm.

This research article aims to examine how Ruskin Bond presents everyday life as an art form in his literary works. It explores how ordinary experiences, simple characters, and familiar settings are shaped into meaningful themes. By analysing these elements, the study highlights Bond's contribution to Indian English literature and his unique way of celebrating life in its



simplest form. Ruskin Bond's literary works have caught significant attention from scholars and critics for their uncomplicatedness and emotional depth. His ability to present ordinary experiences in a touching manner has been considered one of his greatest strengths. Several scholars and critics have studied Ruskin Bond's writings. They have appreciated his focus on simplicity and everyday life of the people. Most literary studies focus on Bond's close relationship with nature, childhood memories, and hill-town life. Critics often describe his writing style as straightforward, sincere, and emotionally rich. Bond's characters represent common people rather than heroic figures. Studies cleared that how his stories reflect real-life emotions such as loneliness, loss, friendship, and quiet joy. Some critics also observe that Bond's works elaborate vanishing lifestyles and traditional values through his short-stories. Critics often note that Bond's writing reflects a deep understanding of human emotions analysed through ordinary situations. However, while nature and childhood are often discussed in his short stories. Fewer studies focus specifically on how everyday life itself becomes as creative theme in his works. This research attempts to fill that gap by closely examining ordinary moments as a central literary element. It is cleared that Bond's characters are mostly ordinary people such as children, teachers, villagers, shopkeepers, and elderly individuals. This study aims to explore that aspect in detail.

The present study involves a close reading and thematic analysis of selected works of Ruskin Bond, including short stories, essays, and novels. The focus is on identifying how ordinary experiences, daily routines, and common characters are represented in his writings. The analysis is conducted by detecting frequent themes such as simplicity, daily routine, ordinary characters, and emotional realism. The study aims to interpret these elements in a clear and logical manner to show how Bond turns daily life into an art form. This approach helps in understanding how Bond transforms common experiences into meaningful literary expressions. Ruskin Bond's literary works beautifully transform ordinary experiences into

meaningful narratives. His writing does not depend on dramatic plots or heroic characters; instead, it focuses on daily life, simple emotions, and familiar environments. Through his stories and essays, Bond presents everyday life as an art form that reflects human values, emotions, and relationships.

At the beginning Bond started writing for livelihood. His focus on ordinary people and daily moments reminds readers that beauty exists in simplicity and routine. The magic of Mussoorie he presented in his work. Ruskin Bond's works demonstrate that everyday life holds deep meaning and artistic value. Through simple language and familiar settings, he captures emotions and experiences that are universal and timeless. The study concludes that Bond's portrayal of everyday life is not casual but thoughtful and meaningful. By transforming common experiences into insightful narratives, he creates literature that is comforting, relatable, and emotionally powerful. His contribution to Indian English literature lies in his ability to celebrate life as it is—quiet, simple, and deeply human.

Everyday Life and Ordinary Characters:

One of the most outstanding features of Ruskin Bond's writing is his focus on ordinary people. His characters are often children, lonely adults, teachers, villagers, or elderly individuals who live simple lives. These characters mirror real human experiences and emotions. In 'The Room on the Roof', the protagonist Rusty is a young boy who experiences loneliness, friendship, and emotional growth. The book published when Bond was only seventeen years old. The novel revolves around Rusty the boy who was living in Dehradun. His daily struggles, small joys, and desire for freedom represent the inner world of an ordinary teenage. The novel does not depend on unexpected events; instead, it focuses on simple moments such as walking through streets, attending class, and forming friendships. Through Rusty's life, Bond reflects how everyday experiences shape personal identity. Similarly, in *Our*



Tree Still Grow in Dehra', Bond writes about common people and daily routines. The stories reflect the quiet lives of individuals living in small towns, highlighting emotions like homesickness, belonging, and human connection.

Nature as a Part of Everyday Life:

Nature is not presented as something distant or symbolic alone in Bond's works; it is deeply connected to daily human beings' life. Hills, trees, rain, animals, and seasons are part of the characters' routine existence. In 'Rain in the Mountains' Bond describes simple events such as rainfall, walks in the hills side, and silent evenings. These natural elements are not dramatic but ordinary, yet they carry emotional depth. The changing seasons mirror human emotions and remind readers of the beauty present in everyday surroundings and deep connection with nature.

In 'The Blue Umbrella' nature forms the background of village life. It was adapted into popular 2005 Indian film by Vishal Bhardwaj. It won the National Film Award for Best Children's Film. The story revolves around a simple object a blue umbrella but the rural setting, mountains, and village environment give meaning to the characters' daily lives. Bond uses nature to highlight simplicity, desire, and human behaviour without exaggeration. Simplicity of characterization play an important role in the works of Ruskin Bond.

Emotional Realism in Daily Life:

Ruskin Bond's works are known for emotional realism. He presents emotions such as loneliness, love, loss, and friendship through common situations rather than dramatic scenes. In 'A Flight of Pigeons', Bond portrays the emotional life of ordinary people during a historical crisis. While the background involves conflict, the focus remains on daily survival, human relationships, and emotional endurance. The characters' simple acts of kindness and fear highlight the emotional strength which found in everyday life. Bond's writing shows that deep

emotions do not require grand appearance; they naturally appear from daily human experiences.

Childhood and Daily Experiences:

Childhood is a recurring theme in Bond's writing, portrayed through everyday activities such as playing, attending school, and observing the world. These experiences are presented with innocence and emotional honesty. In 'The Adventure of Rusty', Bond characterizes the small yet noteworthy moments of a young boy's life. Rusty's connections with friends, his observations of people, and his emotional responses to simple events reveal the richness of ordinary childhood. These daily experiences form the foundation of the narrative and connect strongly with readers. Through such stories, Bond suggests that childhood memories, even when simple, leave a lasting impact on one's life.

Simplicity of Language and Style:

Bond's simple language plays a crucial role in presenting everyday life as an art. His clear and direct style allows readers to easily connect with the characters and situations. Books like 'Scenes from a Writer's Life', reflect Bond's personal experiences, memories, and observations. The simplicity of his writing shows the simplicity of the life he described. This stylistic choice strengthens the theme of everyday life and makes his work accessible to a wide audience. He considers himself a 'visual writer'. He imagines the stories at first and notes them down.

Conclusion:

Ruskin Bond's literary works prove that everyday life holds deep artistic and emotional value. Through ordinary characters, familiar settings, natural surroundings, and simple language, he transforms daily experiences into meaningful narratives. Books such as *The Room on the Roof*, *The Blue Umbrella*, *Rain in Mountain* and *The Adventures of Rusty* clearly



demonstrate how Bond celebrates life in its simplest form. This thematic examination reflect that Bond's true achievement lies in his ability to find beauty in the ordinary. His works inspire readers to appreciate small moments, human emotions, and the quiet rhythm of everyday life, making his literature timeless and deeply relatable. The study reveals that Ruskin Bond presents everyday life as an important and valuable theme in his works. By focusing on simple moments and ordinary people, he focuses the emotional richness of daily experiences. His writing cleared that literature does not require extraordinary events to be meaningful; rather, it can emerge from routine life and familiar surroundings.

In conclusion, Ruskin Bond's picture of everyday life reflects a deep respect for simplicity and humanity. His works encourage readers to appreciate small joys, quiet emotions, and ordinary relationships. Through this thematic examination, it becomes clear that Bond's involvement to literature lies in his ability to turn everyday life into a form of art that is both relatable and enduring.

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