

## The cruelty of mainstream education and the social conditions of natives with reference to Beatrice Culleton's in search of April Raintree

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### Abstract

The Natives of Canada has faced so many problems in the hands of main stream people and they were brutally treated in the name of foster schools, they were taken away from the parents. The character Cheryl Rain tree strongly gave a retort to the teacher in the school because they are changing the history of the natives. George manual is the man and all the credit goes to this man because he coined the term the fourth world literatures in the book "THE FOURTH WAY AN INDIAN REALITY" in 1974 coauthored with Michael Polson George manual has worked for the natives of Canada and the indigenous people of the world throughout the life. George Manual was the first president of the world council of indigenous people (WCIP). The aim of my paper is to present the exact conditions of natives in Canada and how they were exploited in all forms in hands of main stream people.

**Keywords:** Fourth-world, Natives, Education, Mainstream

### 1. Introduction

The term 'Fourth world' coined by George Manual and Michael Posluns in the book "*Fourth World: An Indian Reality*" (1974). George Manual has worked for the indigenous people of his country and for the natives of the world throughout his life. He became the first president of the world council of indigenous people (WCIP).

The central focus of native literatures is on issues and subjects connected to native culture oral tradition subjugation history religion mythology and folklore experiences.

My paper is divided into two parts:

1. The cruelty of mainstream education towards natives with references to Beatrice Culleton's *In Search Of April Raintree*.
2. The various forms of exploitation experienced by natives of Canada in the hands of mainstream people. The aim of my paper is to present the exact conditions of main stream education and social conditions of natives in Canada.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world - Nelson Mandela

Education is a chariot with which you can conquer the world. Education is the soul of society and it passes from generation to generation and it aims at development of democratic outlook and the fate of the country depends upon the education of the people of that country.

But the purpose of mainstream education in Canada was different from this and the children of the natives were forcefully taken away from the parents to assimilate them into the Christian and mainstream culture where they cannot survive these schools were funded by Canadian government and department of Indian affairs administered by catholic and Anglican churches of Canada.

Beatrice Culleton uses her text to examine and denounce the portrayal of Métis people in education system. Through the comments of April Rain tree's sister Cheryl Rain tree we

come to know about that natives are treated as gutter creatures in residential schools of Canada. One day in the class teacher started to portray that the natives tortured and massacred the brave white explorers and missionaries.

Cheryl rain tree loudly asserts all that are bunch of lies she is not afraid of death she thinks that it is disgraceful to sell her rights as a native only for bread and butter. The teacher goes on saying that this is the history whether you like it or not then Cheryl rain tree gave a reply which can break the grounds of mainstream education and white colonization.

If it is the history how come so many tribes were wiped out? How come they haven't got their land anymore? lies lies lies your history books don't say how the white people destroyed the native way of life that's all your white people can do is teach a bunch of lies to cover your own tracks.

Natives are no longer ready to accept the white domination to change their history as per white people wish the grief of Beatrice Culleton expressed through the character Cheryl Raintree.

Linda Hogan another native writer in her work *Winged words American Indian writers Speak* she states that I thought about my family that we were the last blood group and I thought of Indian people as vanishing that our stories and histories were disappearing.

The white people are changing their history in order to dominate the natives. They have experienced depriving the ancestral languages if anybody found to be speak in native tongue they were beaten pillar to post they have experienced the physical and sexual abuse in the hands of teachers and white students they neither escape nor control look at the pitiable conditions of schooling for natives.

*Aristotle* viewed laughter as man's quintessential privilege Mikhail Bakhtin said "of all living creatures only man is endowed with laughter" elders says that laughter is the best medicine for all diseases but there is no single incident of laugh in the book *In Search of April Raintree* and for all natives who were studying residential schools of Canada,

suffering and suffering no end to their suffering in schools they were expected to do work as bonded labor at all times throughout the day.

Native youth cannot associate with the education system and there were so many drop outs from the school this is only because what they learn in the schools is greatly contradicts with their culture and beliefs that They are make to believe forcefully. By attending their schools their mental ability reduces that leads to suicide family dysfunction the suffering passes to generation their children and grand-children and great grand-children are suffering from this kind of mainstream education harassment.

The writers like Beatrice Culleton, Tomson Highway and Shirley cheechoo, Drew Hayden Taylor thermalized the traumatic experiences of first nations in residential schools. Writing about the experiences is a healing process to them native literature is emerged from the experiences of their own lives. Education can enlighten the way of thinking and way of living when only it was offered in a genuine way without any inequalities. Article 14 of united nations declaration the rights of indigenous people it acknowledges that they have the right to establish and control their educational system providing education in their own languages in a Manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning and Bluequills is the first native administration tribal college. Promoting gender equality is important element concerning education to indigenous people the education for indigenous women and girls should be seen as matter of urgency. States should promote intercultural education they have to strictly implement the provisions aimed at eliminating the discriminations against indigenous people in the education systems taking into consideration social and cultural economical and aspirations of indigenous people.

The social conditions of natives of Canada are worst they were disassociated from their lands fought diseases and sicknesses they had never seen before the first nation of Canada have experienced several waves of traumatic experiences on social and individual levels that have contributed to the health crisis in aboriginal communities and continued to place enormous strain on the fabric of native societies across this continent.

European law was enforced through death and destruction of village and leaders theft of children and women banishment of medicine peoples and outlawing of ceremonial practices to destroy native culture disfavors them in access to resources to restrict their mobility and to create or accentuate inequalities within and between native communities.

Civilization means living together by helping each other today human civilization is drowning in the sea of lies. The civilization tells us one thing that one group of the society are enjoying the fruits of progress the other group of society are hard to survive as human beings. They are not asking the sun and moon from the sky and not great mansions and gods or rituals but the rights as human beings.

They were exploited in all forms in the hands of white intruders from southern hemisphere and north hemisphere over a four hundred year time span killing up to 90% of the continental indigenous population and tortured them physically culturally and economically socially and psychologically and Spiritually.

Physical: The first stages of white colonization and introduction of infectious diseases leads to decrease of indigenous population.

Cultural: Associated with the wave of Christian missionization intend to bring about religious transformation from nativity to Christianity it leads to cultural destruction. It leads to downfall of native belief system.

Economic: The colonial experience has destroyed the traditional economies and imposed on European economic system. They were removed from their native lands forcefully take for example particularly in America natives have lost their land under 1887 Dawes act between 1887 and 1932 natives in America have lost 90million acres of land.

Social: Native displacement through white settlement leads to destruction of native Canadian society and introduction nontraditional coping mechanisms and there by diminishing cultural values and mores.

Psychological: With all the exploitations faced by the natives they lost their control on their behaviors and their social self-became largely diminished and impoverished.

When all the compartments of social structures damaged the society cannot exist anymore the same thing happened in the native Canadian society then how can they survive the so called developed countries and secular countries claim to work for the cause of their respective indigenous communities but the question is where they really taken care of the natives the governments should dedicate to the services of natives because the future of the native countries lies in the future of natives.

How can a society surely be flourishing and happy where the greater parts of the society are poor and miserable? Natives have good commitment as long as there is life in their bodies they will forever work as the light for enlightenment of the natives.

The good news that native people across the country are presently in the process of criticizing the dominant culture on their own terms forging individual strengths and renewing their collective unity. Every native writer contributing their part for the development of their native people.

Let all the natives come into one track. Everyone must stand together to protect the rights of natives. As individual fingers we can easily be broken but altogether we can make a mighty fist and hope better future for the natives of the world.

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