

**PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF  
R.K.NARAYAN'S *THE BACHELOR OF ARTS***

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**ABSTRACT**

*It is believed in Hinduism that human life is comprised of four stages. These are called “ashramas” and every man should ideally go through each of these stages:*

*The First Ashrama – Brahmacharya*

*The Second Ashrama – Grihastha*

*The Third Ashrama – Vanaprastha*

*The Fourth Ashrama – Sannyasa*

*The paper intended to focus on Chandran, the protagonist in R.K.Narayan's *The Bachelor of Arts* and study his experience of self-realization in the light of the Hindu philosophy. The essay also highlighted his psychological and moral growth from youth to adulthood thus observing the novel in the context of a bildungsroman. As in a bildungsroman the goal is maturity and Chandran achieved it gradually with difficulty, perplexed among customs, caste distinctions and modernity. To defy custom and tradition he shifted to Madras which in due course forms the epicenter of crisis in his life. The paper also attempted to interpret the psychology of the protagonist in the light of Foucault's heterotopia of crisis which in the modern concept gets replaced by heterotopia of deviation. In the culmination Chandran struggled with his conscience to overcome the crisis, finally he is reconciled to his traditional life. The deviation perceived in Chandran is actually the deviation in our society where leisure is the rule; idleness is a sort of deviation.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Hinduism, Ashramas, Bildungsroman, Heterotopia*

**Received:** Feb 20, 2016; **Accepted:** Mar 03, 2016; **Published:** Mar 07, 2016; **Paper Id.:** IJELAPR201605