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FEMINIST STUDY IN R.K.NARAYAN'S NOVELS, 'THE GUIDE' AND 'THE DARK ROOM'

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ABSTRACT

R.K. Narayan, one of the famous and best known writers in the world. He is known for his simple and modest language usage. Most of his novels reveal the dominance over the women in which he exhibits his feministic views. In this work, I ought to depict the representation of women and their status in the Indian society with two of Narayan's novels 'The Guide' and 'The Dark Room'.

Key words: Feminism, Women status, Narayan, chauvinism.,

Introduction

When we talk about Feminism, it is a solemn endeavour to utter with reference to deprecate position of women. They are not grant equal opportunity whether it is legislative or economical. They are subjugated outside and inside the home. They have to depend more on men financially. They have no right to take any decisions of their own. Right from the creation of the world, the world is subjugated by men and women are given less important position. They are contemplated as the co-follower of the men. Also there are numerous occurrences in the history which exhibit helplessness or deprecated situation of women. For instance in 'The Ramayana,' 'sita had to go to fire test even though Sita is alleged the goddess in order to prove her purity and holyness. Also Dropadi was aggrieved over the crowd in 'Mahabharata', no one stand for her or protect her. It was the blame of five husbands and other men who witnessed the insult. The plight conditions are not even changed till date. This is the reason why feminism came into society to examine the position of women.

Traces of Feminism in 'The dark Room'

This story travels with a woman, who is having 3 children with a dominating and over controlling husband Ramani. Ramani is an bossy and cavalier husband. He neither cared the feelings of others nor his wife. From the inception of his novel we can easily find that Ramani's wife do not have the meager influence to do anything in house in whole 15 years of marriage life. She thought herself that How impotent she was. Every decision in the house is decided only by Ramani, starting from food preparation to the attire for his wife when they go out.

For example, every morning when Ramani starts to office, he stops at the entrance of the street, question who is there inside house. It is circuitous command for Savitri to show up there and sending him to the office. Five women characters are described in this novel, who are represented differential and passive . They are Savitri and Janamma. Shanta Bai is ridiculously potrayed as a slut. Gangu is portrayed as lack of knowledge, and beauty. For instance, she overly wish to become a heroine, but she has neither good structure nor features. She also wish to be a singer, but she has no good voice. Ponni is another character who is also

represented as a atrocious wife, who always misbehave to her husband. She is presented as an cruel housewife rather than a astute one

Effective description of novel about deficiency of the decent sex in Indian society has been shown through the vulnerability of Savitri. For instance whenever her son Babu becomes very ill, she delicately appeals Ramani about the boy that he has fever, so he cannot go to his school. But Ramini scold her and ask her to do her house works. She is free to do all works, she interested in the kitchen but should not involve in training the children. It is not women's work. She is meant only for kitchen. Savitri is much annoyed with her regular routine house hold works. At some times she asks inside her, "Was there nothing else for one to do than attend to this miserable business of the stomach from morning till night?". The women in this novel are portrayed as foolish creatures and their ability to do good job is only in the kitchen cooking variety foods and making up themselves. Ramani used to say

Women are infuriating. Only hoodwink would have whatever thing to do with them. Hours of dressing and makeup ... Shelves of costly dresses, will be worn only when moving out. Our work stops with paying for the dresses. Outsider only has the luck to see them in pretty dresses

In this novel, cruel and insulting verbal communication is used to describe females. Even the cooking support of Ramani, Ranga's point of view that a wife should not impede in the husband's relationships. Several happenings, we find in the novel reveals that the cook told that his wife tried to interfere only once about his affair and he nearly broke her bones. Now he taught her to leave him alone. Women must be trained to be in their limits. Another male character in this novel is Mari. He used to told that women must be kept under men's control. If they given freedom to do anything then all will become evil. This dominance is also inside the old saint. He also used abusing language for Ponna. He said that if a women don't let her husband to rest then she should be beaten. That is the way to shown to the women of that behaviour. Most of the time Savitri is compared to a Child by his husband. He used to tell that she is child, a precocious child.

Some of the abusive words are as follows: Temple chariot is used to call Jannama because of her big size. The word restless rat is used for Gangu because of her tireless work. Ungrateful women and thankless wretch are used for savitri.

Various instances about gender biases can also be found in this novel. Some of them are: Babu goes to a better College in the place than Kamala and sumathi. And in another place Babu discouraged kamla and sumati as silly creatures only for the reason that they are born girls, so that they cannot understand Hollywood movies. Also Babu think himself as superior to girl children. His father Ramani also teach his daughters to well behave in the house and outside so that they will be recognized as a good ladies in the society. He also blames Babu for crying like a girl. He consider that the word cry is meant only for female and that should not affect men. Men should be always superior to women. It is been told that women are born to be disciplined under men dominance and they are taught to be socialized under the rules of men.

Traces of Feminism in 'The Guide'

Rosie is a multi talented woman. She basically lived her life as devdasi and then she educated herself to a highly decent girl. She married Macro, but due to his dominance and rejection she left him and turned out to be a professional classical dancer.

The character description of Rosie is uncertain, and is actually difficult to understand her nature and behaviour. She easily allows Raju to love her. But suddenly she will think of her husband and fells for him and even she would like to meet him once. First chapter of the novel reveals her character as free liberal girl who takes her decision on her own. She even survived the devdasi culture and educated herself in M.A Economics. She also broke the devdasi system and includes herself in bharathnatyam. In chapter four, she is described as a seductress who seduces Raju and desserted her husband. Her husband also use abusive words that she will go with anybody for seduction.

But the truth is that she devotes her art and she lives only for her barathnatyam. The reason for leaving her husband is that he has no interest in art

and he discourages her for being so devoted. He even remarks her movements in the dance as monkey tricks. On the other hand, Raju prized her like anything. He decorated his words to impress her and he appreciated her. He tells her that the way of her dance her movement made him fall for her. He dreamt about her all the night. At that moment these words impressed Rosie and she started to live with Raju. The longing of real love and care made her to go behind him.

In the middle chapters, we can easily identify that Rosie is kind by heart. She is not like what she was described in the beginning of the novel. The real evil is Raju who covers her good character under his bad portrayal. The truth is Raju seduces Rosie. Raju is the one who voluntarily goes to Rosie always. Whenever Rosie becomes sad about her husband, he used that opportunity to seduce Rosie and go so close to her.

We can also find that Raju poisoned Rosie's character in the society that "I sighed deeply, overcome with the sadness of her life. I placed my hand on her shoulder and gently stroked it".

The uncertain character of Rosie is only because of Raju and Macro. They only used her for their comfort. Even Macro didn't treat her as human being. They treated her as fancy thing. Raju also misused her art and earn lot of money and names.

In the last chapter, Rosie is presented as she emerged a great classical dancer and helps others to get through their lives. Raju and Macro misused her by playing in her love life. Raju even outlined Rosie as Gold mine to Gaffur. She used her art as business equipment. At last it is quoted Rosie as garland in monkey hand.

Conclusion

When we talk about feminism in these two novels, women in the novels can be categorised in the three phases. Janamma realises her state and enter in to feminism. Savitri even comes to feminism but she cannot change the family environment as her husband cannot be changed from his old age concept. She is unable to protest against her husband because of her children. She wished her daughter to get education and they need to be free when they attain their adolescence. She is aware of feminism but she is helpless in the house. She lives

only for their children to grow up well. Gangu, Shanta, Ponni are already living their own life and making their own decision. So they can get in to the place of feminism.

On the other hand, Rosie fell for Raju and at some point she went under the control of Raju. He uses his love words for Rosie to hear his commands. He used her art and made her dance a business. But she is always grateful to Raju. Because he is the only reason she got much famous in her classical dance. But in the last, Raju also started to dominate her and made her accept his commands. Raju because of his illegal action he spent all his money and got arrested. After that, she became free and continued her life as famous classical dancer. So she also comes in to the ring of feminism. Thus Rosie succeed in her life as a classical dancer.

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