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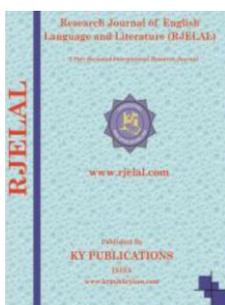
PHENOMENOLOGICAL PORTRAYAL AND SOCIAL REALISM IN ANITA NAIR'S LADIES COUPE IN VENEER OF GENDER EQUALITY

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ABSTRACT

Socialization plays an important role in the construction of gender. A vast majority of women are reconciled to a life of humiliation in the form of gender bias while performing roles of wives and mothers in a rigidly custom bound milieu. Cambodian Civil Society states that it is not gender which is destroying our culture. It is our interpretation of culture which has destroyed gender equality. The status of women all over the world has been undergoing a rapid change in recent times. The change flounces over the position of women in any society is a consistent index for the moderation that comes to social life. Anita Nair portrayed the essence of Indian system of patriarchy and women self elevation and identity by realizing the self in her works. Ladies Coupe deals of women empowerment through self realization in veneer of gender equity.

Keywords: Gender Equality- harmony of life- dynamic changes in men women relationship- ladies coupe portrays it in a poignant way.

Gender Equality

Gender Equality would provide relief from oppression, alienation patriarchy forced submissive roles, egoistic clashes and also quench the thirst of longing for love and affection in both the sexes. In gender issues the harmony of life can build an equitable society. After a long struggle in all these years we can boast in an ease that in a broad-spectrum it is not obligatory to precede a battle for equality. Only the women gender have to thrive equality from secondary status by drawing strength and acting independently from performing weaker role to path of freedom and gender equality.

Thomas Jefferson had stated that "All men are created equal." If all are created equal are we treated as equals? The Harmony of life which is to be celebrated with peace and happiness is

disastrously disturbed and shattered into pieces by Politics. In the plethora of world human beings life have started to lose its charisma by it. It is performed by all to seize the power; it involves in grasping its expectation by exploiting others. In the social set up upper class practices it to undermine and betray the poor whereas in the family set up matrimonial harmony get spoiled by egoism and gender politics. Peace shatters here.

Women realm of consciousness have initiated awakening into a new realization of her position in family, society and conscious of her individuality. She is on the mark to assert and ascertain her rights as an equal human being and determined to gain a par treatment with the opposite sex which would make the world fair and better place. These dynamic changes in men women relationship in modern times enforced them to

deconstruct the exploitative and inferior power structure found in gender relationship.

Anita Nair's Ladies Coupe: Phenomenological Portrayal and Social Realism

Anita Nair appeared in the literary track much later before her contemporaries. She is a renowned Indian female writer with a fine sense of presentation of character in its phenomenological light with the true colours of social realism. She presents the characters with a great sense; vivid knowledge of Indian culture and her books depicts the everyday world of Indian in its real ways.

Akhila the protagonist of the novel Ladies Coupe has never done anything to gratify her soul or senses throughout her life. She shoulders the responsibility of her family after her father. She is too busy in caring her family that she finds no time to deem about her marriage, her mother too not worries about it when in turn she finds a partner for her he turns to be too young to her. Though they planned to get married one day Hari conveyed that they should wait unto his younger sister get married. She accepts everything and yields herself to him. At last terrifying and worrying about the society's stray comments on her act she decides against it and bids farewell to his relationship. She decides to take a break and move away for alone travel in ladies coupe. Her experience and sharing of the stories of her fellow women travelers change her opinion and she gets transformed into a new bold person to face the world in her taste. She decides to renew friendship with Hari again by possessing all her freedom.

Akhila in her travel, with her women fellows Janaki, Margaret Shanti, Prabha Devi, Sheela and Marikolundhu able to share their experience of life that provided her energy and stamina to decide her life. Nair's characters are life asserting, though they do not share their life stories publicly as in the train journeys of ladies coupe it's poignant in the way the experience they share with the protagonist.

Janaki who lead a protected life as a wife of Prabakar accepts the life the way it comes to her. She is in the attitude that as a wife she should please her husband, in bed and in always. In her

forties she realizes that what a real love is and the permanent love of her husband too. To her the better halves are the permanent remedy for the hurting relationships.

One among the fellow travelers Sheela has a greater lever of contemplation and perseverance than others. She understands her grandma's feelings. Her grandma is a greatest manifestation of femininity. She advises her that a person should be pleasing to oneself first and she hates deformity in any form. She insists on personal dignity. In her death ceremony she brushes her hair, braids it into plaits, and applies the foundation to present her in good appearance. Everyone judged that she has committed irreverence but she knows that her grandma would have been pleased.

A chemistry teacher Margaret Shanthi has a life that she aspires for; she married a man whom she loved. In earlier days she lives a life usual Indian woman, obeying her husband without a word of neglect. She realizes his true colour that he is selfish in later days. So she chooses a different way to revenge upon him by providing oily unhealthy food to him. She breaks away all the rules of her husband. She made him dependent upon her for all sort of work and she achieves her earning for a girl child.

Prabha Devi has a different story to share with. She is neglected in her childhood by her father pointing out her gender but it was consoled by her mother that he can choose a suitable and concerned family as per his wish and business interests at the time of her marriage. She is married to Jagheesh at the age of eighteen and she is proud every moment after her marriage. Her way of dressing and attitude alters fully when she stays at London. She decides to postpone pregnancy at least for some years. She started adoring herself, the beauty of her which leads to misunderstanding and her husband tires to take advantage. After thrashing him black and blue she ascertains her femininity to cherish the motherhood. She delivers two children and she needs something more to feel complete. There she decides to learn swimming without anyone's help.

Marikolandu, poor innocent girl faced the great tragedy in her life. The world was so cruel to her. She was raped by a wealthy man in one night.

She takes it as her fate and she moves on but her womb cried out her pain. She becomes pregnant. She delivers a boy baby and her heart stimulated hatred over him. She left him uncared and showers her love on the baby of her owner's. She surrenders the whole of her to Sujatha Akka and her husband. But the illicit relationship throws her away from her work. She understands that sacrifices are not cared when it is not needed. She has decided to live for her son and herself.

Akhila decides to lead a life alone reacting to these women stories of living in cocoon provided by men or uncontrolled exploitation by men. Her search for self identity comes a round, she achieves unconquerable will and spirit that compels her to proceed her life without grudge.

Remedy to quench the thirst of gender equality:

The novelist carefully portrays the shades of pain, love, anger and frustration in the novel. It is a novel about contemporary Indian society, about our awareness of the conflicts between our aspirations, vision in life, the threads of intolerance, anger violence and the survival of our traditional values and ideas still in the present circumstances.

Men and women are complementary to each other. Neither of them can claim any superiority over other gender. In the society women are often given secondary role by the patriarchy system. Now a day they have gained courage enough to exhibit their self identity in all levels. Women cadres are ready to undergo transformation challenging journey to search for their strength and alienation.

Identifying the self in Ladies Coupe:

Anita Nair's characters undertake the journey of all the women sufferings that exists round the world, they are social replica of suppressed and oppressed woman. Bond of men and women in their lives are not usual routine but it's their right. Despite of the ill-treatment and misuse of the society on female cadre they stand strong, preserve their inner core serenity and evolve as a woman with self identity in the dominating society they found their own path of salvation even in the life, filled of hurdles. They recover from their

individual problems, gain their self esteem. Janaki realizes where the true love lies and decided to move to her husband leaving her son and daughter-in-law who didn't mind her value, Margaret shanty finds proper way by Ebe's retreat to her. Prabhadevi recovers from depression. Marikoluthu finds what real purpose of her life and Akhila achieves the strength and renovates to emerge and live a new life for her satisfaction and happiness.

Refernces

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