

Feminism in Hairharan's The Thousand Faces of Night

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Abstract- Githa Hariharan, a well-known Indian woman author, has tried to focus on the deeply entrenched biases of Indian society against the feminine gender. The novel *The Thousand Faces of Night* (1993) deals with the issues of feminism as well as the issues of gender and identity also. In it, she tries to explore mainly the lives of the typescript namely, Devi, Sita and Mayamma who survives in male subjugated society. Woman faces all the problem in her life and even survives with her inner strength. Through the study of women characters, Githa provides us with a peek into the Indian institution and culture and the situation of women in the Indian society.

Index Terms- Feminism, subjugation, Feminine, Self-Effacement, Gender Biased, intolerance, Patriarchal.

INTRODUCTION

Family is a sociological unit produced by blood, marriage or approval. In it, it can be describe as nuclear as parents and children or extensive as encircling other relations. Women are important in this unit. Society or countryside or relations can union without an active attachment of her. She has been the master figure of the family, yet she leads a life of slavery, poverty and dominion. Her primary role in it is to elevate her children & take care of the house.

In her childhood, she had been brought up in a loving & affectionate manner without any preciseness. But after her marriage, she changes habitually. Social conformity has always been more crucial for a woman than for a man.

In general, the position of a woman has been impracticable. She has been the key person of the family, but she is still a 'second person' also. Her identity and not capable of free thinking. She is particular accustomed by customs & willingly accepted their accountability In society, man cannot accepted the freedom of woman.

According to her, distinctiveness is a basic genre of human thoughts. For her, if any person refused the independence of others, we call it repression. Women are other because they defined men as inferior.

In a contradictory society, a female child s brought up under the strict control of her parents. There is a view that she is to be given a new master, her husband who will her life. The eternal womanly virtues & grace are instilled in her so that she could be an attractive service in the market of marriage. She is groomed to be an object of sale right from her childhood. She gets hardly any support to develop her independent personality self. The decision in terms of her career or even marriage is taken by her father, brother & mother.

In a traditional society, when a young girl reaches puberty, her movements are restricted. But at the same time, there are no borders for her brothers at that age. The double values start in expenses overtly from this stage. They bind the girl activities and expectant boys to develop outdoor activities. A spirit of competition, investigation and challenge is inculcated among boys. They are taught to the other hand, girls are dejected from showing aggressive modes of behavior and instead, feminine virtues of grace, modesty, self-effacement are frequently demanded from them

Githa Hariharan is well aware of these facts and the present novel 'The Thousand Faces of Night' presents her close study of gender based discriminations made in the family and their impact on women. In a patriarchal society, a female child is brought up with a view that she is to be given to a new master. Simone de Beauvoir observes that marriage is the fortune traditionally offered to women by society. Sita belonged to traditional thinking. She recalled Devi from America and she had again been packed and dispatched, and this time to a permanent intention that is wifhood.

Marriage is the deepest as well as the most problematic of all human relations. Marriage is supposed to be holy union of the two souls and bodies. In Hindu religion, the wife is known as Ardhagini or Sahadharmini which means equality. For her, it is a trap which neglects her rights, her individuality, her independence. Women are set up as the negative, and this concept is explained by Simone de Beauvoir, She says, "The category of other is as primordial as consciousness itself We find it realization itself as a fundamental hostility towards every other perception.

Marriage is a woman's exploration. With it, there is an end of her search because she merges herself in the family losing her distinctiveness. For her, family becomes more important than individual. She sacrifices herself. She is taught not to copy male qualities that will make her tainted and demonic patriarchal society, man cannot accepted the freedom of woman. So woman has the other. Simone de Beauvoir used this term to diagnose the female's secondary position in society as well as her own pattern of thought. Sita's unnecessary of veena is an instance of the concept of other.

The present novel depicts the disaster of women, who in their inner mind react the expressions from the bondage of male dominance. Devi, high well-read, belonged to the third generation, second construction through her mother and also with first through the stories of her grandmother. Judith Mitchell says that the construction of the female self, in the post-colonial novels of movement becomes significant for the exile's identity, assembly in general, in this issue, it is very often the case that female characters occupy a central position in the novel. Devi is that type of character. The female emigrant shows that she is invested with a compliance that enables her both to preserve specific facial appearance of her own background, and to understand those of the country. Devi is that type of limitless, westernized woman who returns to her country, India and is supposed to fill in a slot traditionally reserved for her.

CONCLUSION

Indian women whose badge has been silent-suffering who is an upholder of Indian culture, is an oft-repeated type in Indian novel. She is shown to be enacting various roles-of a mother, a wife, a inheritor

and a sister – a cog in the family machine but never as an personality claiming her life to be her own wherein she could seek personal pleasure and self-fulfillment. This is mainly due to the established patriarchal society where the authority emanates from the eldest male in the family. In male-dominated society, the inflated male tends to dominate and disregard the female who is his partner in life.

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