

Disequilibrium of women in the story 'Nectar in a sieve'

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Abstract- Kamala Markandaya presents disequilibrium of women in the story 'Nectar in a Sieve'. It shows the sufferings and difficulties go on by men. Rukmani is the prominent character, who suffers a lot by her husband and sons. Kamala Markandaya delightfully pictures each character in this novel, especially Rukmani. This story goes around the character Rukmani and her family member. This novel deals the hitch of Rukmani.

DISEQUILIBRATION OF WOMEN IN KAMALA MARKANDAYA 'NECTAR IN A SIEVE'

Kamala Markandaya is a well-known Indian English Novelist. She was also a great journalist. She belonged to the first generation of Indian Writers, who wrote about the plight of the Indian women. Her works showed her good language skill and knowledge. She wrote eleven reputed novels. Her first novel, 'Nectar in a sieve' was published in 1954. She gained vast literary success with her first novel. This novel was translated into several languages. Even these days, Many American colleges and schools teach this novel for students. Her novels are, 'Nectar in a sieve' (1955), 'Some Inner Fury' (1956), 'A Silence of Desire' (1960), 'Possession; a novel' (1963), 'A Handful of Rice' (1966), 'The coffer Dams' (1969), 'The Nowhere Man' (1972), 'Two virgins' (1973) and 'The Golden honey comb' (1977).

'Nectar in a Sieve' was set in India for the duration of a period of Intense Urban adulthood. This novel showed the struggles and sufferings of the Indian peasants. This novel pictured the rural area culture and struggles and also showed the plight of Indian women, Rukmani. She was a bold woman, who was married at the age of twelve. She struggled a lot subsequent her marriage. She was ill-treated by her husband and also by the near women. Kamala Markandaya pictures Rukmani as a bold lady. But she wrote about her sufferings than her satisfying moments.

Rukmani was the daughter of the rural region head man. Her father precise marriage for her at the age of twelve. She married Nathan, who was a resident farmer. Within a year she gave a birth to a girl child, Ira. The next six lifetime she conceives. Her husband urged her to give birth to a boy child. Without her husband's knowledge she went to Kennington, an unfamiliar doctor. He gave production to her and she gave birth to six sons, Arjun, Thambi, Murugan, Raja, Selvam and Kuti. After Ira's teenage years, Rukmani arranged a marriage for her. Her husband thought that she was a burden for him in a month. So, he left her in Rukmani's house. Monsoon rain damaged their crops. Rukmani spent her investments to buy food for the family. She again went to Kennington lacking her husband's knowledge. This time Kennington gave treatment to Ira and she got conceived. But, his treatment was too late, however, since Ira's husband took another woman. Kunthi, who was a prostitute and also the near woman of Rukmani. Nathan fathered kunthi's two sons. Kunthi altered Nathan's mind, she said that Rukmani had an illegal relationship with Kennington. Rukmani's family underwent a lot of problems. They suffered out of hunger. Rukmani's first two sons went to the coffee farm in Srilanka. Murugan worked as an assistant for Kennington. Raja was killed by the headman. Because he stole calfskin. Selvam also worked with their parents. Kuti was the younger one, who knows about his family circumstances.

Ira went into the prostitution life for feeding her child. That time, Rukmani and Nathan sold their son, Murugan, who lived in a town. There also they live. Because, he already struggled. He didn't get sufficient money to bring up his son and wife. They went to a temple and there they saw a man, puli. Puli helped Rukmani and her husband. Rukmani and Nathan worked in a brick making place. At last her husband died out of his ill-health. Again, she went to

her son, Selvam, who worked with Kennington. She lived her rest of the life there.

Rukmani was the main character of this book. At the age of twelve, she married and gave confinement to the child. She was a courageous lady. Arranged marriage was a service festival. But, in this novel they arranged a childhood marriage for Rukmani. Why didn't they give education for her? Why did they push her into a painful life? Markandaya portrayed her as a courageous lady. But, she didn't have a good backdrop or life for her. In this novel, all the male characters also lead their life. They didn't show their care in this novel. But, all the female characters struggled a lot for their husband and children. Why does Markandaya show this inequality in this novel? Kunthi and Ira got into the prostitution life to lead a life. But, Men are enjoyed the illegal relationship or second relationship with another women. Kamala Markandaya wrote:

“While the Sun shines on you and the
Fields are green and beauty to the eye, a
Your husband sees the beauty in you which no
One has seen before, and you have a good store
Of grain laid away for hard times, a roof over
You and a sweet stirring in your body, what
More can a woman ask for? (Chp.1-para.39)

This novel shows the real condition of peasant woman and farmers in the light of contemporary India. It shows the difficulties, sufferings, disasters, desolation and problems of Indian peasant woman, Rukmani. She was the hardworking and devoted wife of Nathan. She was willing to accept challenges in order to achieve her aim. Her dream was not to lead a luxurious life or to get a better grade in a society. Her dream was brought up her children without starving. Kamala Markandaya gave a small circle to Rukmani. Markandaya pictures Rukmani as a courageous woman, but Rukmani spent her whole life for her family. She got six sons, but they didn't help their mother. Rukmani tried to overcome her struggles and achieved it.

Nathan didn't like girl child. He only wanted male child. He showed his male-chauvinism in this novel. Ira is a beautiful and talented girl. But, Nathan didn't like her at all. Because she is a girl. Kamala Markandaya wrote:

Nathan at first paid scant attention to her: he had wanted a son to continue his

Line and walk beside him on the land, not a puling infant, who would take with her a
Dowry and leave nothing but a memory behind; but soon she stop being a puling
Infant, and when at the age of ten months she called him "Apa", which means
Father, he began to take a lively interest in her". (Chp.2-para.49)

Kamala Markandaya showed disequilibrium of women throughout the novel. Throughout the novel, Rukmani is faced with struggle after no indication that her circumstances will improve. Each time her situation worsens, Rukmani endures gently, holding on to the hope that things will soon be better. This novel shows the problems of Rukmani not Nathan.

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