

Constraints Faced By Indian Women After Their Marriage Life: A View on Chitra Banerjee Divakurni's Novel "Arranged Marriage"

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Abstract: Banerjee portrays woman as a protagonist in "Arranged marriage" stating that the society expect a woman to be perfect wife, cook, mother as well as unpaid maid to the men and their families. All stories of Arranged marriage have character with strict and conservative culture, clash of culture, women grapple with idea of identity. It has the concept of hope, courage and resilience. Sex is considered to be act meant for husband's pleasure or for procreation. Women treat sex with their husbands as duty, even if it is painful or unconcerned, which is highly said to be marital rape. These stories state the situation of exploitation, unequal power dynamics between husband and wife, which results in physical, mental abuse and even economic exploitation.

Keywords: Harlot family, lifelong romance, self love, American dream

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Chitra depicted 11 short stories as a novel (published in 1995) in a tremendous way stating the constraints faced by Indian women after their marriage life. The stories talk about the different views and issues prevailed to a woman in society due to their marital status, resulting from the patriarchal cultural differences of east and west. The immigration, myth, family, joys, challenges and sufferings of women physically and mentally portrayed in "Arranged Marriage".

Love Towards Self:

Oscar Wilde says - "To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance", but I say – if you can't love yourself, you cannot love anyone or anything in the world".

Self - love is important to every human which has been portrayed in the story 'The Word Love' where an unnamed narrator living together with her boy friend was dependent towards her mother which

bothers her boyfriend where she had a thought of committing suicide later which was uttered by her mother's said story provokes her to make a decision to lead a new life without her mother or boyfriend.

The story 'Disappearance', states the disappearance of first wife, as she hates the marital rape and the culture born, by an unnamed narrator towards her. She in depth of creating her own future and lead her life without frustration.

Love Towards Spouse:

Divakaruni 's short story 'Bat' says that how a wife been consoled by the words of a letter written by her spouse intimating to return back to his house even though she is been tortured by the drunken spouse. Love of Sumesh towards Sumitha in 'Clothes' makes her decide to stay back in the same country to proceed the wish of her spouse to run the store successfully.

In 'The Maid Servant's story Manisha gets to know her mother forgives her father even though he misbehaves with the maid but blames upon the character Sarala, when she knows that she belongs to a harlot family. In these stories Chitra portrays the blind love of wives toward the spouses even though they faced the troubles given by them mentally and physically.

Clothes story depicts Sumitha's love upon her husband where she has to serve her law's after being widow but persists herself towards mirror stating her lovable married life and her destination.

Love Towards Their Wards:

"A Perfect life" portrays Meera's kindness and love towards the adopted child, she lose the hope of the child when she lost her adopted child and never wants to adopt or have any child in her life after her marriage.

“Ultra sound” says about the story of two pregnant cousin Anju and Runu, they were happy in their pregnancy, where Runu got to know that she is going to deliver a girl baby, which was been compelled by in laws to abort, in return Anju wants to help her through her richness even though it was disliked by her spouse.

Love Towards Shameless Sin Love:

Arranged marriage novel's “The word Love” portrays a college girl living in sin with an American Man, where her widow mother considers her character warn her indirectly by telling a peasant's daughter story which made peasant's daughter to commit suicide and also the peasant to move away from his own land due to the shameful act of her daughter reminds the widow's daughter to commit suicide but in turn she wants to live, which made her to leave her mother, who shows hatred as well as illegal relationship with the American man, which caused her bad feelings due to her character.

In the story “Affair”, arranged marriage became a tragedy in the life of Abha and Ashok where Ashok falls in love with his friend Meena, Meena falls in love with an American man. Meena's husband had an idea with Abha, which made Abha to think as unfortunate in her arranged marriage and also felt Meena's decision was correct to marry the American man after the divorce with Srikanth.

Love Towards Foreign Countries:

Banerjee in her “Silver pavements, Golden Roof” story a young girl Jayanti wants to take up her study in abroad so she visits her aunt Pratima who stays in America. She finds her aunt as well as neighbourhood in normal life style. Jayanti and Pratima goes for a walk where the racist gang attacks them. They returned back to their house, she saw Pratima was hit by her husband as she was not informed him for going on a walk. Later Jayanti heard that Pratima consoles her husband for losing his fortune. This incident changed her perspective of the feasibility of American dreams.

CONCLUSIONS

It has been concluded that “Arranged Marriage” is a treasure book of stories which enhance the sufferings of much more heroines and their decision towards their pain, sufferings, life style, worries and their

culture portrayed in a manner where it gives a solution to their pain and worries.

When I read these stories it touched the part of my relatives, friends and myself been one among Chitra's heroines.

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