



MATURATION AND TRAUMA IN WOMEN'S WAR NARRATIVES: ICE CANDY MAN

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Abstract

The concept of feminism has been variously interpreted by different critics in annals of literary history. The critics strikingly criticized the male dominance and male chauvinism in all spheres of life. In retaliation to these ideas many critics justified their own point of view that ladies are not marginalized in different cultures of the world especially Islamic world where ladies have very prominent and pivotal role in domestic and social spheres of life. Feminism means equal rights for all regardless gender. It is fact women were not given their equal status in ancient times. Women were not allowed to go out of their houses. Period of feminism is regarded as evolutionary period in the history of mankind. Now in contemporary times women are enjoying high status in society. They are playing constructive role in every walk of life. Theory of feminism deals with gender inequality. Political, cultural and sociological theories are also a part of feminism. Protection of women's rights is the integral part of feminist theory. This theory is based on gender equality. Feminists are of the view that women also enjoy equal rights in society. According to Li and Bolaria (1994), they define feminism as an "awareness of the special problems which is faced by women in the contemporary society." Li and Bolaria are of the view that feminism is an attempt which is made for the betterment of women.

Key Words: *Marginalization, Feminism, Sociological theories, Male Chauvinism*

1. Introduction

This study focuses on how the women in society are oppressed and marginalized by the men as it is viewed by Sidhwa in Ice Candy man. This research shall also focus on certain elements of patriarchy and gender bias which cause this marginalization. Simone De Beauvoir uses the term marginalization for women, because she believes that women are always oppressed and marginalized in the society: "woman has ovaries, uterus: these peculiarities imprison her in her subjectivity circumscribe her within the limits of her own nature whereas he regards the body of woman as a hindrance, a prison, weighed down by everything peculiar to it." [1]. However, marginalization means to put or keep someone in a powerless or unimportant position within the social context.

The concept of feminism is very wide. Feminism has a key role to play in Post-colonial literature. Post-colonial literature means the literature which is written after colonization. Different authors have expressed their views about the problems of women in colonial era. Spivak is one of them. In his essay can subalterns speak he talks about the oppressed individuals of the society. He is of the view that the people who are oppressed have no voice. Nobody is eager to listen them.

She perceives the organic misuse of ladies as she develops. As a youngster she values her mom's affection and her father's insurance however the entire scene of Ice-Candy-Man and Ayah pulverizes every one of her originations about adoration. She was stunned to see Ice-Candy-Man driving his better half Ayah into the business of prostitution. She closes, "The guiltlessness that my parents' watchfulness, the workers' consideration and Godmother's adoration sheltered in me, that nor Cousin's lustful yearnings, nor the tales of the savagery of the mobs, could very obliterate, was ruined that night by the passionate tempest that seethed around me. The showdown between Ice-Candy-Man and Godmother made me fully aware of the intelligence of honorable ornateness over compassion. To the requests of satisfaction and the deceitful nature of want."

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The site of Hindu and Muslim women being attacked during the turmoils freezes her. She watches men changing into mammoths precluding great and human characteristics. Women including Ayah were ending up being prey of men. Lenny was dazed to see the human mind which was worked of nobler materials getting so successfully subverted. Men were articulating commonness more than each other by unequivocally ambushing women. Women had nothing on the side of themselves. Desire, noxiousness, begrudge, rage for singular power and essentialness in men were provoking violence and injury. Shashi Deshpande states:

“.....rape is for me the grossest encroachment of trust between two people. Whether or not it is someone in the family or your better half or whatever other man who presents an attack, it wrecks the trust among individuals. It is furthermore the best ruthlessness since it isn't only the woman's body anyway it is her cerebrum and assumption of her privilege to have a control on her body which is no more.”

Ice Candy Man is one of the famous and striking novels of Bapsi Sidhwa. This novel is based on the difficulties which were faced by people at the time of partition of sub-continent. Whenever change takes place people refuse to accept it. Muslims of sub-continent wanted that they should have a separate state for themselves. Before partition Sub-continent was ruled by Britishers. They treated Muslim's as their slaves. August 1947 was the time when British Raj came to an end in the sub-continent. When Britishers got departed from sub-continent and as result two independent states came into existence. Two nation theory played a key role in the division of sub-continent. Two nation theory means that Muslim's and Hindus are two separate identities. They can't live to gather. At that time there was a dire need of the partition of sub-continent.

At the time of partition riots broke out in different cities. Violence aggravated the situation. Many people lost their lives. Novel Ice Candy Man is the true depiction of the circumstances of that time. We can say that the tragedy of partition has given rise to fictional exploration sited:

“Number of novels have been written on the theme of partition. Novel ice Candy Man is one of them. This novel also tells us about female oppression. In this novel we can see that females are being ill-treated. They become victim of riots. Partition of sub-continent left a mark in the history of mankind. Horrifying experience of partition is being beautifully portrayed in this novel. Element of trauma can also be observed in this novel. Theme of marriage is the key element of this novel. Sidhwa has used ethnic groups including Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Parsis to convey her message. She is of the view that the experience of partition was very painful. It will keep on haunting the minds of future generations.

This novel also throws light on the poor condition of women at the time of partition. Women enjoy high status in our social structure. There are certain sects of our society which tend to marginalize women. Sidhwa has represented this violence in her novel Ice Candy Man. Marginalization means to oppress someone. Keeping someone under strict check can also be given the name of marginalization. Simone De Beauvoir is of the view that women are always marginalized. According to him, “woman has ovaries, a uterus: these peculiarities imprison her in her subjectivity circumscribe her within the limits of her own naturewhereas he regards the body of woman as a hindrance, a prison, weighed down by everything peculiar to it.” We can



observe marginalization of women in almost all parts of world. Constitution of Pakistan grants equal rights for all but still women are marginalized. Sidhwa is of the view that women should be given equal rights. There should be no discrimination. Sidhwa in her writings has touched every aspect of women oppression. Sidhwa's writings have played a great role in making the women aware of their rights. Sidhwa also discusses ancient Hindu laws. She is against forced marriages and class system.

In her novel *Ice Candy Man* she has beautifully depicted the problems of women. Character of Lenny has been used by Sidhwa to present her feministic point of view. Lenny also faces terrible time at the time of partition. She was also affected during that course of time. Impact of partition has been depicted through the child narrator Lanny. Character of Ayah has been shown as a symbol of marginalization. She has been treated in a very humiliating manner. This novel has played a great role in the realization of the women for their rights. This novel tells the women that how their body is being used by the male counterpart for their benefit. Through the character of Aya she has shown that how women are being used. Mother of Lenny also suffers from oppression. Her husband shows disloyalty towards her.

Woman's rights as an extreme talk has dependably been a test to Christian Theology. The contemporary deconstructive women's activist social imagined that flags a radical epistemic move in transnational legislative issues, financial matters and culture summons religious philosophy to re-find its technique and core interest. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's deconstructive women's liberation re-positions contemporary women's activist idea in a post-Marxist, postcolonial, and postmodern epistemological setting. The epistemology and to portray out its suggestions on the contemporary religious program. At that point theory is broke down in three noteworthy segments. The principal segment is a prologue to the Spivakian epistemological 'schedule'. The second segment endeavors to explain the forms of Spivakian women's activist epistemology by illustrating three explicit classes, viz: subalternity, minimalness, and planetarity. The third segment investigates its suggestions on religious approach in discussion with a portion of the contemporary postcolonial women's activist scholars who connect inventively with Spivak. Spivakian women's activist epistemology is being meant here so as to reconsider a women's activist systematic religious philosophy in a post-globalized setting.

While discussing marginalization we can also refer to Spivak's theory of Sabaltrens. It can be observed that women play the role of sabaltrens in this novel. They have no voice. They are not able to fight for their rights. Actually Aya was a Hindu. She was victimized by those people who were her friends before partition. Often it happens that Aya took Lanny out for walk. Aya moves freely at that time. Her freedom was being crushed by the males later in the novel. *Ice Candy man* uses her body. Body of Aya was a source of attraction for the men. Her interaction with men can also be seen in this novel. We can also observe victimization and marginalization of Muslim women. Hindus and Sikhs had immense haltered for Muslims in their hearts. So they raped Muslim women. Kabir [7] describes the female body and sexual violation in these words: "As in other moments of collective, it was the systematic rape of women that trauma and body obviously linked. Women were raped and mutilated during the mayhem of the partition because their female bodies provide a space over which the competitive games of men were played out". She fears that she might go through similar sort of situation. Spivak is of the view that sabaltrens are unable to do anything. Women are not able to resist against the oppression. Lanny also



suffers from trauma. In her view her brother is superior to her. She suffers from inferiority complex. She is not responsible for her situation because society had poisoned her mind. Spivak also talks about customs of Sati. Women are burnt alive according to this custom. It seems as if women had accepted their fate. According to Lenny's doctor she does not require to get admission in school. Her nerves will not accept that. This also shows tradition of that time. In those times some people thought that women should only remain in their houses. Lenny says that she has been marginalized her with in the four walls of her house. She is of the view that she can't do anything because she is living in male dominated society.

We can see that the servant of Lenny is also being victimized. Servant's mother treated her in a very. Humiliating manner. Male dominance was a key phenomenon at that time so her mother wants to mould her daughter in similar way. Lenny's mother also represents marginalization. She uses to take care of Lenny's father to keep him happy. Her mother plays the role of an obedient wife. Lenny knows that her father holds high status. Lenny's second Aya Hamida also becomes victim of oppression. According to Hamida many people have used her body. Now she can't do anything. This thing also represents silence against oppression. Spivak gives answer to the question that can Sabaltrens speak. She says that Sabaltrens can't speak. In a male dominated society female is not able to stand for her rights. Sidhwa is of the view that partition is not a good experience for the women. Their houses were being burnt. People of that time thought that women are the property of their husbands. Husbands can use their wives in whatever way they want. Their bodies were being used. Trauma surrounds the novel *Ice Candy Man*.

To conclude we are justified if we say that Sidhwa has a constructive approach because she wants to aware the women about their rights. She wants that women should understand that they enjoy equal rights in society. Sidhwa had raised voice against injustice done with the women. She refuses to accept gender discrimination.

A society or group. (Definition from free Merriam Webster...) Ladies are underestimated in practically all pieces of the globe. Be that as it may, in the autonomous Pakistan regardless of the established certifications of correspondence between genders, the ground substances recount to an alternate story. However, training, industrialization, modernization, and globalization all have had certain effect on the circumstance and status of ladies, anyway the dissemination of such change stays uneven bringing about augmenting imbalances among people. Therefore, while defining the 'marginalized women' various factors need to be considered including the opportunities, resources, finances, employment, and material status etc. Generally, the women need to find the space for contest and are forced to use the site of marginality to resist and create a new world.

Ice Candy Man proposes a significant treatment of feminism and its demand the attention the interest of the readers on numerous counts. *Ice Candy Man* is the second partition based novel Witten by a women with so much intense and deep portrayal of the naked truth about the partition whereas the first novel of partition by women sunlight on a broken column by Attia Hosain does not compact deeply with the gruesome reality of partition. It is daring attempts on the side of women write to take the theme of partition and as to make diversion from the usual and traditional themes that women writers usually prefers.



The female characters in *Ice Candy Man* are very strong than the male characters. Though the male characters act as imitators they remain marginal and feeble. The female characters such as Lenny, the AyathShanta, Godmother remains crucial and insist their own power of authority they act as representative to expose the biases which prevail in the patriarchal society. The women characters are very certain and conscious of their individuality and they cannot be easily dominated. The experience which is presented here by the women characters is very fresh and new.

Kamala Edwards says,

“Sidhwa is a feminist and realist. One sees in her women characters the strength of passion, the tenderness of love, and the courage of one's conviction. They struggle overcome the hurts of time and escape the grip of a fate in whose hands they are often mire puppets.”

The very special feature of the novel *Ice Candy Man* is the chronicler Lenny. She is the right years old child who witnessed the bloody and gory partition and act as the projector in this novel. Being lame she recognizes the circumstance and distinguishes her liberty and is no point she feels for her lameness but on contrary she fights to gets triumph over her in activeness she feels herself as normal as others and though she enjoys some special benefits. She is aware of her world. Lenny can be compared to the persona that Chaucer adopts in his epilogue to the *Canterbury tales*, rendering credibility by being almost a part of the reader's consciousness... with the wonder of a child she observes social change and human behavior, her persona a source of sharp irony. (Novi Kapadia).

The lameness of Lenny is significantly portrayed because Sidhwa as a physically challenged person may have been faced many difficulties to becomes a writer since it was once considered as a male genre or fort. Thus the character of Lenny is represented as the replica of Sidhwa. Her mind-set towards her nameless cousin demands the feminine brazenness. Though she know that her world is compacted her hope for new things never gets loosened as she always try to attempts stuffs which is different and peculiar. Lenny comments her lameness and say, "Having polio infancy is like being born under a lucky star. It has many advantage it permits me to access to my mother's bet in the middle of the night".(p.10) She enjoys the life as it is unlike other children she is more interested in knowing the things that happens in her surroundings. She is a very keen observe and quick learner, this quality make her unique foremothers. About her learning and observing power she remarks, "I learn fast... I learn of human needs, fragilities, cruelties and joys. I also from her the tyranny magnets exercise over made". (p.20)

The covetous glance Ayah drakes educate me. Here and there, they take a gander at her. Stub entered bent homeless people and dusty old bums on bolsters drop their stances and gaze at her with hard, ready eyes. Blessed men set apart in devotion, show aside their falsifications her with desire. Birds of prey, truck drives, cooks, coolies and cyclists stop people in their tracks as she passes, pushing my pram with the unconcern of the Hindu Goddess she workshops. (p.3)

So she uses her feminine grace for getting silly advantage such has badam, cashew nets, extra serving of food and so on. She uses her charm as a stratagem of social and endurance but this was possible till the aggression of partition as the violence destroys all her recognizable world. She is aware and confident of her individuality. By representing the feminist of a female she educates Lenny with intelligence and choice. Though she is flirtations with other she is



extremely obedient to Lenny and her family. She takes care of Lenny as a mother. Ayah is the combined image of both beauty and intelligence. Though she talks with everyone like Ice Candy Man, Sharbat Khan, Hari and all her admires her loves towards Messieur is pure, true and incomparable. Her care and concern for other shout her kind and of motherliness nature.

Sidhwa has not focused on only one factor of ladies' lives; rather she has taken ladies from each area of society and has demonstrated specific sufferings and issues. Now and again, privileged ladies are the good examples but different occasions they may experience the ill effects of numerous social and mental issues. In any case, rich or something else, most still experience the ill effects of numerous social taboos and political issues. So as to feature the sufferings and the battles of ladies, these journalists influence their female characters to experience a troublesome situation to prepare them in the craft of life. These conditions improve these ladies in understanding their obligations to society and furthermore imperatively their duty to themselves. They become familiar with the specialty of living and subsequently free themselves from the superfluous confinements presented on them by customary social frameworks. Women's activist voices were first brought up in Western fiction, which later on made ready for liberation and strengthening of ladies as a rule. The Pakistani fiction scholars have additionally set a base and pace for woman's rights in this district of the world and ideally it will succeed.

The Cultural Articulation of patriarchy is also highlighted by the writer in Ice Canady Man. As it is portrayed in the following lines:

“The selective implementation of Islam has been responsible for the entertainment of an all pervasive patriarchal system of inequality and subjugation.”. Sidhwa nurtures her voice against ancient Hindus laws such as child marriage, the class system, forcemarrriages, and religious calamities. All these things only apply on women and men are allowed to re-marry, keep mistresses, or visit prostitute. Sidhwa stresses on changing attitude of men after independence. She has not attaches any particular nationality with her. She hated the changed attitude of men and the age-old rigid conviction that existed in religion in our society but it does not mean she is anti-religious. She interprets the both male and female characters in society as natural as they are found in the Indo-Pak. She views that male havedomination over female due to their unawareness and suppression.

Sidhwa wants a world free from mastery and request, a world that dependent on the standards of equity and fairness. Sidhwa in her novel exhibits a progression of female characters who endured amid the time of parcel of 1947. Emotional issue, singular duskiness, brutalities of common unrests and viciousness perpetrated on ladies has been devotedly anticipated by Sidhwa. The entire story has been described by Lenny who portrays the feelings of trepidation of brutality and her own appearance and responses. She sees as well as inspects man's lewd and mortifying considerations towards ladies, eagerness of male sexual necessities, ladies as they are abbreviated to the status of sexual issues and relates the abnormal burdens, societal and malignant, to which they are uncovered. Ice-Candy Man is an epic of female concealment and underestimation.



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