

Print Media and Textual Analysis of Muslim Women Writers

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Abstract

The twentieth first century is the hub of social media and the present generation is the part of global civilization. The present civilization and global togetherness is due to the print and social media of today. The transitional scenario of world is tied with each other and nobody is out of this umbrella. People throughout the world can express their views and can contribute to the outside world by means of different tools. This research paper is an attempt to analyses the texts of Muslim women through the lens of current media available to them. They have adopted different media to express their concerns and to present their male structured society. The aim of this paper is to prove that the recent trends of media are very helpful to the oppressed community against the oppressors in the Muslim dominant societies. The writers expressed their concerns through their texts and through other sources of media. The present society is very much linked with social media so nobody is spare. The Muslim women have chosen different ways for voicing out loudly through different sources of media. The most relevant and effective means of communication is the literature through which they have depicted the composite structure of community. This is an effort to bring the real and contemporary issues of Muslim women into the light of debate and discussions.

Keywords- *Muslim, Women, Society, Writers, Media, Civilization, Oppression, Global*

Introduction

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty. (Mahatma Gandhi)

In the nineteenth century women have started writing literary pieces and at the end of nineteenth century the time had shown the attraction of more women towards this media. In the twentieth century literature has produced a lot of writers but the tradition was limited only up to the non Muslim women writers. In the initial stage of twentieth century women struggled a lot to gain a space in the writing culture later on towards the end of this century number of Muslim women writers came in to the limelight by publishing their works in the print media. Women in any society occupied a crucial position in society as mothers and wives; their social status became the indicator of a civilized society. Since women writers dealt with themes of marginalization and domestic incarceration, their works were reckoned perfunctory and women writers were expected to write in decent language. Women have not only chosen literature but they have also shown their presence in other genres as well.

Unveiling India

Anees Jung is an Indian Muslim woman writer, journalist and great women and social activist. Jung has written many books, articles and few novels but her most notable work is *Unveiling India* by which she has been lime lighted in India and abroad. Her writing always stands first in convincing the social and economic conditions of women. Jung has collected the real stories of women throughout the Indian states. She has presented the real face of the society and social circumstances in her book. Being a journalist she has struggled a lot for the cause of women empowerment in India. Jung has used the media also to highlight the problems of the women in the society.

In India after independence several dignitaries have initiated positive steps to address the problems of women in the society. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, M.G. Ranade, Mahatma Phule and others raised their voice against unjust social practices and injustice perpetrated on women. They have a great vision of progress and empowerment of women. Jung in her interview exclaimed about the status of women in the twentieth century is still behind and far away from the perspective of modernization. Indian women lack freedom: Anees Jung has been interviewed by a Staff Reporter of the News Paper The Hindu.

KOCHI, JAN. 26. Anees Jung, noted writer has said the freedom of women in the country will remain far from reality unless society changes its mindset. No matter whether she is rich or poor, a woman in India suffers the bondage at least when it comes to emotional content, Ms. Jung said. (The Hindu 2004)

The Hour Past Midnight

Rajathi Salma is an Indian muslim author, columnist, social worker and speaker. She is now a celebrated Tamil writer, her novel *The Hour Past Midnight* has been long-listed for the Man Asian Booker Prize. When Salma was 13 years old her family stopped her studies and forced her into marriage. She started composing poems on scraps of paper and sneaking them out of the house. The Hour Past Midnight is a narrative of women's lives in a small south Indian town. It portrays the Muslim women, who are deprived of their rights and confined within four walls of their homes. They are neither emancipated nor economically independent. They are shackled to their homes by the notions of religion. We find a glimpse of their way of life: how they celebrate festivals, perform daily prayers, celebrate functions, and so on. The book traces the lives of not only Muslim women but also of their children and omnipresent omnipotent men. There's a little innocent girl, Rabia, whose innocence touches readers' hearts. Her questions put a question mark on double standard of the society. We find another girl, Wahida, who goes to her in-laws' house with a fairy tale dream but finds totally different reality. We find Firdaus, a beautiful girl, who is forced to marry an older man but shows courage and walks out of marriage on her wedding night. We also find another courageous girl, Fatima, who defies social norms and elopes with a Hindu boy. The characters challenge the rigid norms of society and present examples for others. Salma has not only revealed her experiences of life but she has also depicted the social and family issues of her locality in her writings.

The novel is the presentation of self and reflection of the locality. The society is changing now with the efforts of those writers who are involved with different sources of media for the progress and empowerment of women.

The society lays down different norms for men and women. Men manipulate the norms in their favor. Salma presents the dual character of men. She portrays double standards of society in an excellent manner. (Garg, Manoj Kumar. & Dr Venkataramiah P, 351)

Blasphemy

"No nation can rise to the height of glory unless their women are side by side with them.....It is crime against humanity that our women are shut up with in the four walls of the houses as prisoners.".....Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Father of Nation.

Durrani is a Pakistani writers and she belongs to the elite family in Pakistan. Her family is highly educated but unfortunately she has been victimized by the social and political system of the nation. Durrani has produced a number of literary pieces in which she has ridiculed the present social scenario of the country. The status of women in Muslim country is far from reality and the theoretically they have been give rights but the ground realities are different. The society of Pakistan

is no different from any other male obsessed society. They are always oppressed part of the society. Women being extremely vulnerable are easy targets of any form of oppression, humiliation, deprivation and discrimination, and this patriarchal social system uses religion as a medium to exploit women and disinherit from all rights silencing their voice. Religion which is associated with God and goodness treats men and women in equal terms with humanity and humility. But the patriarchal system flourishing, the mediators made religion patriarchal in nature started misusing it to victimize and subjugate women. That is what Tehmina Durrani, the Pakistani writer has revealed through the characterization of Heer and other characters in her novel *Blasphemy*. In this novel she has revealed the ground realities of the so called the religious men in the muslim society. Durrani not only in this novel has protested but she has written other books as well in those books she has portrayed the family crises and male dominant society. Durrani has guts to express the elite family system in Pakistan this thing is not happening in the Pakistan only but also among the communities where old orthodox customs are existing

Her novel *Blasphemy* is a continuation of her indictment of the corrupt religious system of Pakistan. In it she exposes the corrupt nature of religious leaders, the evils like polygamy, rape and child molestation at heart wrenching level. In *Blasphemy* through the narrative of her protagonist, Heer exposes the devilish character of a holy man Pir Sain who uses religion to subjugate women in the haveli. (Rani P, 80)

Conclusion

In the conclusion we can say that the present position of women is changing and they are demanding the equal status and equal space in the society. They want to go ahead and change the world of male dominance. They have chosen different sources of media to protest against the social, economic and political crises which are existing among the various sects of Muslim communities. The media of today is allowing them to come in front for taking and attaining equal space and share. The need of time is to treat them equal and to eradicate all these old prejudices and preconceived notions about women. Muslim women are struggling to achieve the equal share in the society. The demand from the part of women has gained a level of strength for their progress and empowerment. Women are gradually enjoying social space and economic stability. Women have chosen literature and other things of communication to protest and demonstration against the prevailing conditions of women. They are writing books, news papers using social media and other sort of communication to present their voice against the male structured society.

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