

ABOLITION OF SOCIAL MYTH IN *WHEN I HIT YOU OR, A PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG WIFE* BY MEENA KANDASAMY

Kanchana.P^{1*}, Krithika.S¹, Nithyadevi.P², Umamaheswari.P³, Raihaana.A⁴

²PG and Research Department of English, Theivanai Ammal College For Women (Autonomous)
Villupuram- 605 602, Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding authors mail id: kanchukarthisp@gmail.com

¹Authors mail id :krithika05021998@gmail.com

²Authors mail id:nithya9826@gmail.com

Abstract

When I Hit You Or, a Portrait of the novel as a Young Wife(2017),written by Meena Kandasamy is a psychological fiction. This novel represents the struggle of a married woman. This story revolves around the unnamed protagonist who faces psychological disturbance in the society. She also faced the social myth which has been framed for women by the society. Here, the protagonist portrayed by Meena Kandasamy stands as a single lady to represent all the married women in the Indian society who undergoes the same psychological pressure by her husband. The aim of this paper is to analyze the pain and suffering of the married women by the social set patterns framed by the society. This paper focuses not only the suffering of married women but also about the gender stereotype and its role in the married women. It also tells about how the women struggles between her dreams that she wanted to become and how it was against by her marriage.

Abolition of Social Myth in *When I Hit You Or, a Portrait of the novel as a Young Wife* by Meena Kandasamy

Indian writers work which deals in English language is called the Indian English literature or also called as Indian writing in English literature. The reason behind calling them as Indian writers is because; their native language or co native language belongs to any of the languages of India. Also, another reason is that their works produce the India culture, customs, and traditional in any of their works. The very first book written and published in English was *the travels of dean Mahomet*, and that was the travel narrative by sake dean Mohamed, published in England in 1794. One among the famous Indian writer in English is R.K.Narayanan, won the Sahitya academy for his work *the guide*. Among the later writers, the most is Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, Arundathi Roy, Vijila Chirappad, Kamala Suraiya, Rabindranath Tagore, Anita Desai and Shashi Tharoor.

Shake dean Mohamed was the first to write the Indian English work named as *the travels of Dean Mohamed* published in 1794. The Indian writing in the eighteenth and the nineteenth century was rich and varied. The notable writers of early days were, Krupabai Sathianadhan, *saguna: a story of native Christian life*, published in 1887 to 1888 as a series. R.K.Narayan won the sahitya akademi award for his work *the guide*. Mulk Raj Anand's *untouchable* in 1935. Among the later writers, the most notable is Salman Rushdie's *midnight children*; Vikram Seth's *the suitable boy*; Amitav ghosh's *river of Fiction*.

This novel *When I Hit You Or, a Portrait of the Writers as a Young Wife* clearly illustrates that there is still women struggling for her own identity even in her family and also in the society. Social myth framed by our ancestors made the women not to express her own thoughts and feelings in her family and the society. Ever though in the name of marriage, women are forced to lower her own ideas, thoughts and her dream and she has forced herself to convince as a whole hearted women, who is dutiful, loving, caring. Moreover she has forgotten the word 'interest' because this interest is only owned by the husband not by the women. Even in the marital sex, this woman is forced under the interest of her husband and the society which made women to nod her head just as a slave.

Marriage is the formal union for male and female to share their, emotions and feelings equally together not as superior or inferior. But in the cause this novel, the unnamed protagonist is struggling with brutality by her husband. Her own ideas, emotions and freedom makes her husband think that she neglect to follow the rules, set pattern, and stereotypes framed for women is totally against her own wish and interest. Indian marriage system expects the women to be dependent on her husband, the soul of getting permissions and approval for each and every in the marital life of women and that has expected and accepted as a custom of husband community and the society.

The unnamed protagonist suffers a domestic violence apparently through her husband and that had been clearly pictured by the author. She has the idea to become a writer. And as a writer she expresses her own thoughts and ideas to her husband and for her husband that has become the major valid point to harass her. Even though he made her to obey all the rules made by him, he had a suspicious thought on his wife. That made him to indulge in

violence whenever she calls her parents, the advised her to be silent and to keep calm because of this patriarchal society.

My father on the phone:

Yes. Yes. That is not very nice. Listen. Patience. Patience.porumai. tolerates. Just tolerates. Sahippu thanmai. This is not a time to be selfish. If you break off you marriage, everyone in town will mock me..., 158).

After hearing from her parents, when she tries to convince herself to obey all the things followed by a married woman, her acceptance often struggles between the women and the writer. The writer in her never allows her to accept the patriarchal ideas and the social myth that the married woman has to accept child bearing and marital sex. As soon as, when women get into her married life she never asked any permissions from the side of male community for the marital sex. This protagonist too as in the same case that as a rape because that had without her consent as a duty of a married woman. Even though protagonist wants to satisfy her husband's wish, the writer in her never allows accepting these sorts of ideas anymore.

The situation of her life seems as she is struggling between bipolar disorder such as psychological confusion that is what she really needs and what she hates and what she is facing in her marital life. What she really needs as a woman is peace in her marital life, to be independent in her own interest; what she hates as a writer is that psychological acceptance to the stereotypes as a married woman; what she really facing in her marital life is the problems as comes out very boldly from her marital life. These questions in her mind portrays as a feminist writer.

It is no wonder that Indian marriage system suggest the women must have the Psychological acceptance in the social myth of the marriage system. Social myth refers in this paper is that there is no rules for women to accept all the orders, which was made by the men and the society. This is very similar to the viewsof Virginia Woolfin *A Room of One's Own*.

They tell us we mistake our sex and way;
Good breeding, fashion, dancing, dressing, play,
Are the accomplishments we should desire;
To write, or read, or think, or to enquire,
Would cloud our beauty, and exhaust our time,
And interrupt the conquests of our prime. (63)

Women were forced to accept the society's customs and not to think by herself. Here, the protagonist's husband commands her to drink two-litre of water in the medical centre on the process of getting advice for the baby. But as a human nature one cannot drink two litre of water in one at a time of water and when she tells him that she cannot able to drink anymore her husband slaps her in face. The people who surrounds them also supported her husband's emotions is right instead she have to accept that. "To them, this is just an overexcited man eager to be a father"(199). This woman is speechless in between in that society. The societies too act the same as frog made the women to lose their life by not giving any spaces to their voices and made them to obey the myths framed by the society for the married women.

Another important aspect is that if any of the women deviates from the path created by the society, sure they will be another woman who opposes her. Because of the same problem as this protagonist have her own dreams and ideas to explode in their life and society. On one time or another all the married women who undergo all the pains and sufferings wants to get rid of those problems. They too have their own perspective which the society tells that as against the social norms. This novel when I hit you or, a portrait of the writer as a young wife clearly suggest that woman should have to be very strong in her own action even if it is against the social myth. And through this protagonist Meena suggest this kind of attitude.

Works Cited:

- Kalam, Abdul. SK. "Gender Inequality, Self Identity crisis And Marital violence In Meena Kandasmy's When I Hit You: Or, A Portrait of The Writer as a Young Wife". *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*. Vol 9, no.1, Jan 2021, www.ijar.com/upload-issue/ijar_issue_1583.pdf. Accessed 20 Oct,2021.
- Kandasamy, Meena. *When I Hit You*.Juggernaut, 2017.
- Majhi, Nirajan. "Portrayal of Domestic violence and John Osborne's Look Back In Anger". *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews*. Vol 5, no.3, July 2018, www.icjrt.org/papers/ICJRT2101559.pdf. Accessed 12 Nov,2021.
- MLA Handbook*. 8th Ed., MLA, 2016.
- Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*. Fingerprint Classics, 2018.