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POTRAYAL OF SHAMA IN *A HOUSE FOR MR. BISWAS*

Kajal Thakur

Assistant Professor of English , UIIT H.P.U.

Abstract:-In the past, fictional writers have started voicing the women's experience which were hardly considered. Different critical studies, have focused the attention of readers upon the world of women. With the change in time, writers started writing about women's endeavour for liberation. According to Robert. J. Stoller "Gender is a term that has psychological or cultural rather than biological connotations. If the proper terms for sex are "Male" and "Female", the corresponding terms for gender are "masculine" and "feminine; these latter may be quite independent of (biological) sex ." The term "Gender" is used to represent the social and cultural aspect of sexual differences. In this paper, the focus is on the portrayal of Shama and her emerging self as a representative tool of cultural and political scenario.

Keywords: Gender; Shama; Feminist.

INTRODUCTION

a semi-autobiographical novel. It portrays the Naipaul's struggles, females have to bear the brunt of inequality and sexism. *A House for Mr. Biswas* is an account of the East Indian's situation in Trinidad. A study of the book on surface level, makes us feel that it is His trials, marginalisation, exile and suffering from cultural identity. However, if we read text closely, we will find that numerous female protagonists figure in this work. In India patriarchy is just one of the hierarchies which keep females down, oppressed by the traditional system. An unmarried daughter – seen as a spinster even in her late twenties -- brings shame upon her parents, and is a burden. But once married, she is considered the property of her in-laws. In financial matters, although women are permitted to work outside the home, their rights on any household matters have always been denied. A woman has to take charge of the kitchen, even if she is a wage-earning member of the household and holds a job outside of the home. Shama, is one of such female characters. She becomes a symbol of postcolonial feminist perspective. Shama, is the daughter of Mrs. Tulsi. The Tulsis family immigrates from India and they possess their hardly contacts the outside world. Under the influence of Indian patriarchy, she can prove her existence by only relying on her family. She starts working in her mother's shop. However, she accepts her subordinate position there. When Shama is only 16, Mrs. Tulsis, who arranges everything for her, marries her to Mr. Biswas. However, she feels no affection for him. In a patriarchal Indian society, a woman is hardly allowed to have a say. Shama accepts the reality of her submissive position and marries Mr. Biswas. In a patriarchal woman is hardly considered: likes and dislikes. Mr. Biswas sees Shama as a facsimile of the traditional Indian woman who hardly portrays their views firmly. So, he is more than happy to have her as a wife. As for males, they want a woman without independent judgment, so Shama gets married to Mr. Biswas. Whenever, Mr. Biswas has a quarrel with the family, she tries to harmonize. She is not satisfied with Mr. Biswas, because of his poor status and dependency on her maternal business. She feels resentment against him, as he is fully dependent on Mrs. Tulsi for his livelihood. Here, we find her to be a self-respecting woman, struggling to have her own identity. In an Indian society the wife's respect in society, is attached with her husband's status. She too wants her husband to have his own independent status. She doesn't submissively accept her lot. She is ready to leave Tulsi family because she wants her husband to have his own

identity . Shama leaves a deep impression on our psyche due to her ordeal. against the odd behaviour of her husband, but later on like all traditional women scumms to her husband's will. She accepts and obeys him like traditional wife because she is aware that ,it is the only way to make her life more peaceful.

Shama, becomes Who is diligent, kind, loyal but dependent, obedient and sacrificing without any condition. She has a deep desire to be approved by her family,which makes her criticize, Savi when she cannot .She indulges in such behaviour, like mashing her daughters doll's house, only to get approval of her clan. Eventually ,with the intrusion begins to crumble. As a result shaking the very foundation of patriarchy's control over females.

The chains of social, moral and cultural, expectations burden a women with endless obligations. respite. She conceals her dissatisfaction. She can't overtly express her dissatisfaction. submissively futile. To Mr. Biswas, she doesn't say anything .When Mr. Biswas wants her to cook something for him, she rejected However, with time, her attitude towards Mr. Biswas changes . looks weary or no experience of managing

Thus, we can say that , Shama does exacts However, she In the beginning shows her unhappiness. However, as time passes, she feels no affection for Mr. Biswas but still she takes care of him a feels low. At the end of novel, mellows down towards Mr. Biswas and her is the outcome of helpless situation for females. As the Tulsi family disintegrates. Shama has no respite or her own individuality as a women. She is Here we are reminded of Simone de Beauvoir famous quote: "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman(de Beauvoir 1956)". Thus, she eventually submits to patriarchy with passing time. This essay elaborates of patriarchy .Who has no choice to rebel. Even if she does ,she struggles but in vain. different masterpieces . The need of this hour is to rise above the limitations and to deconstruct patriarchal structures through individual questionings. Only through this process of reinterpretation and interrogation new images will be created and new histories written. We should end discrimination and move forward with visions of a better life where both men and women will live as liberated human beings rather than slaves to flaunt ego's.

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258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
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