

Vol II Issue IV Oct 2012

Impact Factor : 0.1870

ISSN No :2231-5063

## Monthly Multidisciplinary Research Journal

# *Golden Research Thoughts*

Chief Editor  
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher  
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor  
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary  
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

**IMPACT FACTOR : 0.2105**

**Welcome to ISRJ**

**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

**ISSN No.2230-7850**

Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

### ***International Advisory Board***

Flávio de São Pedro Filho Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken, Aiken SC 29801	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Kamani Perera Regional Centre For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Department of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences [ PK ]
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya [ Malaysia ]	Catalina Neculai University of Coventry, UK	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Horia Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pinteau, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Titus Pop	George - Calin SERITAN Postdoctoral Researcher	Nawab Ali Khan College of Business Administration

### ***Editorial Board***

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh,Ratnagiri,MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University, Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yaliker Director Managment Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU, Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play (Trust),Meerut	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director,Hyderabad AP India.	S.KANNAN Ph.D , Annamalai University,TN
	S.Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	Satish Kumar Kalhotra
	Sonal Singh	

**Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India  
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.isrj.net**



## A Feminist Context In Rokeya Housain's Sultana's Dream

Rachana Vijay Musai

R.S.C. College Mahagaon , Gadhinglaj , Maharashtra.

### Abstract:

*Rokeya's Sultana's Dream challenges or rather rejects the supremacy of men. She has tried her best to liberate women from the mental condition of 'enslave'. She believes that women will be liberated only when women earn a strong faith on their caliber. The present research paper intends to deal with Rokeya's interpretation of feminism on the background of Sultana's dream.*

### KEYWORDS:

Rokeya Sakhawat Housain, patriarchy, Dream, Ladyland.

### INTRODUCTION:

The patriarchal society codified women's behavior. Women were confined to the house-hold duties. In this system men emerged as superpower because they had economic independence. But, in Rokeya's Sultana's Dream, women emerge as superwomen with the help of education. They have the caliber to use science and technology for the best of their country.

Rokeya Sakhawat Housain was born in 1880 at Pairaband, Rangpur district. Like other typical Muslim girls, Rokeya grew up in strict Bengali muslim 'Purdah' family. She was privately tutored in Arabic and Urdu. Her elder brother Ibrahim Sabir taught her English. At the age of sixteen, she was married to Khan Bahadur Syed Sakhawat Housain. He is twenty-four year senior to her. After her marriage she moved to Bhagalpur, (Bihar). As a wife of magistrate, she got an opportunity to communicate with educated elitist women. As a result, she became perfect in English.

Rokeya's Sultana's Dream was published in 1905 in the 'Indian Ladies Magazine. Sultana's Dream can be considered as one of the feminist-utopia. It is certainly, the first such story to be written by an Indian woman. Rokeya wrote in the early twentieth century. During this period, a movement for independence was started to gain ground. So, the feelings like loss of homeland, search for identity are fully expressed in her writings. She tries to relate women's marginality and identity with the homeless condition of men under the British ruling country. Rokeya writes only to explore the dreams of getting her homeland back and to give women their "own space".

After her husband's death, she received ill-treatment from her in-laws. Rokeya finally moved to Calcutta. Rokeya wants to liberate women from patriarchal norms. Hence, she presents the concept of 'new woman'. This type of woman is self-assured, ambitious, positive and having all the qualities of leadership. This 'new woman' is conscious about her identity. Generally Third World women are considered as religious, submissive, indecisive and family-oriented. But Rokeya's. Sultana's Dream gives a shock-treatment to these misunderstandings. Rokeya wants that women should enlarge their 'personal' and 'social space'. The Indian women's identity was crushed under the system of 'patriarchy'. The word 'patriarchy' means dominancy by men. In this system men emerges as a ruling power and women are considered to be submissive. The social laws allowed men to be a master and suppress women. The social system, "which enables men to dominate women in all relations is known in feminist discourse as patriarchy." (K. K. Ruthven, p.1). The society which is governed by the terms and conditions of patriarchy "implies a theory of

Please cite this Article as : Rachana Vijay Musai , A Feminist Context In Rokeya Housain's Sultana's Dream : Golden Research Thoughts (Oct ; 2012)

gender inequality in which this aspect of men's domination over each other is central to men's domination over women." (Sylvia Walby, p. 20)

Rokeya rejects the notions regarding the 'purity' of women. She tries her best to raise her voice against 'enslaved mind'. She believes that true liberation will come only when women will actively participate in all spheres of life. Rokeya's Sultana's Dream stands as a wonderful fantasy as well as "terrible revenge" on male-dominated society. This is such a sweet revenge that even her husband and editor appreciated her. As being marginalized, she thinks to take revenge through the fantasy of destroying the traditional structure of society and establishing new Ladyland where men will be secluded. Sultana's Dream deals with reversed sex-role. Such kind of creative writing will enable the women to get a sense of self-confidence. Because women are able to handle the social, political and technological crisis very skillfully. If women become the master, they will create a new world of perfect beauty and goodness.

Rokeya's intention is to motivate Bengali Muslim women towards self realization. She again wants to give stress on the point that society could not create speed-breaker in their way. She has a moral courage to question against existing society. She used her pen to motivate people to take the essential step to change the 'evils' of society.

Sultana's Dream tries to forecast the concept of 'new woman'. Through the dialogue of Sultana and Sister Sara, the prevalent Indian notions regarding male and female as presented with a touch of irony. Sultana's Ladyland reports the Indian stereotype while sister Sara presents the outside's views. Through the character of Sultana, Rokeya tries to ridicule the mentality of Indian society. Women in Ladyland are powerful. They got this power with the help of science and technology. It is noted that, Rokeya did not eliminate men from the Ladyland. Rather they are presented as a weaker section of society. Men in Ladyland are compelled to do the household work, as women were in Rokeya's India. Women in Ladyland do not consider men fit for any skillful work. The term 'mannish' is used for a woman who is very shy and timid.

The story presents such a society where the power of males is taken away, and given to females. Here the Indian patriarchal order is presented as reversal. Sultana finds that men are kept in 'Mardana', as the term 'Mardana' is used in contrast to the 'Zenana', where Muslim women of Rokeya's time were confined:

"They should not do anything, excuse me; they are fit for nothing. Only catch them and put them into Zennana" (SD p. 6). Sultana is told that men in Ladyland lost their position because they believed only in muscle power. They were engaged only in acquiring military skills, while women engaged in acquiring scientific and technological skills. As a result, when neighboring kingdom invaded, they exhausted completely and become incapable of defeating the enemy. What happens next day is very interesting "on the following day, the Queen called upon all the men to retire into Zenanas for the sake of honour and liberty. Wounded and tired as they were, they took the order for a boon! They bowed low and entered the Zenanas without uttering a single word of protest. (SD p.10). As a result, the men happily continued to stay in the 'Mardana' and try their best to confine themselves within the allowed area. Sultana is surprised by this picture. Because she also believed that men had sharper brains and power. But she is told. "An elephant also has got a bigger and heavier brain than a man has. Yet man can enchain elephants and employ them according to his own wishes." (SD p.9) Sultana now develops a 'new attitude' towards the patriarchal system.

Rokeya herself observed 'Purdah'. She viewed 'Purdah' as a restrictive device that kept women submissive and prevented them from expressing themselves. She thought that men ought to be locked in 'Purdah' and in the 'Mardana' as it was called in Ladyland.

In the Rokeya's Ladyland women are presented as self-reliant. Patriarchal oppression is exiled from the ideal Ladyland. Ladyland is equipped with the facilities of science, technology and humanism. Women in the Ladyland emerge as the acknowledged legislators. Hence, the patriarchal oppression is faded away. These women legislators are aware about the environment. So Ladyland is free from pollution. Women are actively participating in political, economical and commercial affairs.

The theme of education and adaptation of science is the basic theme of Sultana's Dream. Hence, in the Ladyland number of Universities has been founded. Women are engaged in various kinds of research like the storm-stopping machines, creation of flying cars, artificial fountains and solar-heat machines etc. Rokeya clearly distinguishes between feminine and masculine technology. Feminine technology is related to solar energy and is environment friendly. On the other hand, masculine energy is based upon the power of muscles and weapons.

Sultana departs from Ladyland with the assertion that women must have strong zest for life. If they get the knowledge of science and technology, they cannot be discriminated on the basis of gender. Rokeya gives stress on the point that women are equal with men. They have the ability of governing social, political, economical affairs. Thus Rokeya's Ladyland provides liberal space for women. The Ladyland presents the

society without gender structure. Rokeya's yearning for liberty and equality is clearly seen in the imaginative creation of Ladyland. The story is presented as a dream. Here all the extra-ordinary and supernatural happenings have the base of science and technology. Sultana Ladyland has all the amenities which Rokeya's India has lacked.

Thus through the dream of Sultana, Rokeya establishes women's identity. She expresses the bitter truth with the help of sweet dream. Rokeya's Ladyland stands as the stage-provider for 'new woman's' identity.

**WORK CITED :**

1. Beauvoir Simone De, 'The Second Sex : Translated and edited by H. M. Parshley (New York : Vintage Books rpt, 1953)
2. Hossain Rokeya Sakhawat, "Sultana's Dream and Padmary – The Feminist Utopias", New Delhi, Penguin Books, 2005.
3. Kidwai A. R. Ed. behind The Veil, APh Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2007.
4. Mohan R.: 'Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain (1880-1932) : <http://www.haverford.edu/engl/engl1277b/contexts/rokeyahosain.html>
5. Moi Toril, Sexual/ Textual Politics : Feminist Literary Theory (London : Routledy) (P. XIV)
6. Ruthven K. K., Feminist Literary studies (New York) Cambridge Press, Cambridge, 1984.
7. Showalter Elain, "Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness" Modern Criticism and Theory, David Lodge with Nigel Wood (Pearson Education, Singapore)
8. Walby Sylvia, Theorizing Patriarchy (U.K. Blackwell publishes, 1990) (p. 20)

# Publish Research Article International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished research paper.Summary of Research Project,Theses,Books and Books Review of publication,you will be pleased to know that our journals are

## Associated and Indexed,India

- \* International Scientific Journal Consortium Scientific
- \* OPEN J-GATE

## Associated and Indexed,USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Databse
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database

Golden Research Thoughts  
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005,Maharashtra  
Contact-9595359435  
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com  
Website : www.isrj.net