



BREAKING OF THE CONFINEMENTS AND SEEKING INDEPENDENCE BY THE WOMEN: A STUDY OF GUJARATI LITERATURE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KUNDANIKA KAPADIA'S NYAYA (JUSTICE)

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ABSTRACT

The paper deals with the awareness of the Gujarati woman who wants to have her independence and to break the confinement and opening the door for herself in order to break the conventional concepts of the society. The title of the novel is Nyaya (Justice). This is one of the most beautiful novels written in Gujarati by Kundanika Kapadia as she has shown that women have been treated in ill-manner by the society, and they have to be independent by themselves in the society and set-up, which are patriarchal. The women have to realise their true power, true worth and should value her desires more than anything else. The novelist says that women should not confine to the traditional role of only to maintain the family and raised children because she has to contribute to the society as well in terms of the new development. Thus, let us try to discuss this in the following argument.

Key words: Gujarati Literature, Culture, Gender Discrimination, Confinement, Society.

INTRODUCTION

Gujarati Literature is a field of the Literature written in Gujarat where the writer generally talks about the Gujarati culture and the people and how they live together. This work is also one of the most important works written in Gujarati and it has been translated into so many languages like English and others because of its Universal themes. Just like any other culture,



Gujarati culture is also very important thing of which there are so many things written and so many unforgettable characters have been there.

The modern researchers have noted that the women have been treated by the society unfairly because of the society being male dominated or patriarchal and therefore there is a need to raise the standard of women. Even the Government of India has launched for many schemes related to women empowerment and by that, there are so many researchers who have been influenced and motivated to have this subject in their research works. They have started under minding the conventional role of the women and have asserted that women should not confine to the traditional role of only to maintain the family and raised children because she has to contribute to the society as well in terms of the new development and the new processes and production because she is no way inferior to the males and can be regarded as equal to the meals in some aspects. The new awareness makes them realise that the females are not only housewives but they are also the citizen of the country that needs to be developed and for that purpose women should also contribute towards it and only then that country will raise its standard. As far as managing the family is concerned is the responsibility of the both males and females and women should not be considered only as the responsible factor for such kind of things as they have a larger responsibility and that is towards the country. The women should realise their worth and they also realise who they are in terms of the society and their roles in the society.

However, the new women have been ready to do the household works and they also take the responsibility of the family on the other hand they have also protested against the subordination and gender discrimination which are the part and parcel of our society especially the Indian society. The Gujarati writers, especially the women have also expressed the deep sense of the feminism I'm their works in which they have shown the protest, the distinct feature of their discourse. Here, protest is a kind of voice of resistance, the voice of positivity and the voice that is used to get the rights of the females by which they propose that they should also live with the dignity just like the males.

Kundanika Kapadia, like many other women novelist of Gujarat, has discussed the role of women in the Gujarati society in one of her novels called *Nyaya* (Justice) which is a great work deals with affirmation of the women voice. This novel has two main characters in Radhika and Shyam as Radhika is the protagonist and Shyam is her husband. Radhika Yadav, school teacher but she has eventually given it up because Shyam does not want her to do that and he wants that field should remain at home and manage the house. So she accepts the role as the housewife. She also believes that there is nothing wrong in it as Shyam is working at the office and she is working at the home so she finds it equal. For her it is nothing but a



division of the labour as both of them are trying to do their best in their respective works. She is the educated woman and therefore, she, at the time of her marriage tells her husband that,

“I wanted to marry a person who could accept the women's independent personality and her right of equality in all the things I could suffer anything but the breach of my dignity.” (Kapadia, 56)

However, the life has been going on smoothly but after some years it seems that Shyam is dominating her that she does not like. One day Shyam Literally orders her,

“You must remain in the house when I returned from the office.” She says, “why should I, aren't you late sometimes?” To which he says, “My case is different”, She retorts the by saying, “why is your case be different?” (Kapadia, 79)

One of the examples is also given when Shyam has forced her to go to cinema with him but she says no because he has promised the neighbour in girl to teach her song. Shyam makes fun of her promise by saying that the “women's promises are worthless” which she does not like. On another day they had an extremely heated argument in terms of the politics as Shyam support Indira Gandhi and her decisions, where is she does not like her. Shyam tries to say that the women are not a good Judge of the politics and they should keep themselves away from the politics as he says, “keep mum what do you understand about politics?” The argument turns to be so intense that Shyam slaps her. This is not really a slap but a kind of strategy that the man always uses in order to belittle women and Radhika knows it very well. Slowly and steadily, Radhika realises that Shyam wants domination but she doesn't like it. Radhika thinks that her household works are as important as the work that Shyam does in the office and therefore she should be proud of her that he has been managing it very well. Shyam is consistent in neglecting her and Radhika does not understand why he has been doing this. She also realises that the women are the Puppets in the hands of the males as the females have been suffering from centuries in the hands of males. They have been exploited and ill treated in the conventional Indian society where women do not have their rights. However, she is full in terms of the belief and confidence along with the urge to change the society by breaking the traditional norms. She wants to live independently in her life. She has tried her best to adjust with Shyam but he does not respect her and has not changed his attitude towards her which makes her even more angry and sad as well. However, after being tormented a lot, she has finally decided to leave the house. She has opened the door for herself and calls for a taxi before that she has said that “some people are incapable of receiving forgiveness and love.” Opening a door is a kind of symbol that Kapadia has used to show that a woman has to open the door for herself because there are so many males around



her that do not allow her to open that particular door where she can get her Independence and liberty. However, confinement is shown as the main problem of the females of India Radhika is the perfect example shown by the novelist. She is aware of the Stark reality from the very beginning of a life as an educated woman but still she has some faith in her husband, which ultimately proved wrong for her. Finally, she opens the door for herself and other Indian women to their freedom from the confinement.

Thus, this is one of the most beautiful novels written in Gujarati by Kundanika Kapadia as she has shown that women have been treated in ill-manner by the society, especially the males and for that the women have to be independent by herself, she has to realise her true power, true worth and should value her desires more than anything else. The awareness, independence, the rights etc are the issues that she has to accomplish throughout her life and if she does not get it then it is wrong.

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