



Lessing's Children of Violence - Feminist Perspective

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Feminism basically refers to the equal treatment of women as to men. Feminism incorporates the position that societies prioritize the Male point of view and that Women are treated unjust in society. Feminism is a range of social movements political movement and ideologies that Aim to define and establish political, economic personal and social equality of the sexes. Feminist movements play important role in the rights of Women.

Feminism is an essentially social force since the early 60's of British novelists, in general and women novelists in particular writing about Feminism. Mary wollstone craft's A 'Vindication of the Right of women' (1992) is considered a feminist manifesto even today she argues that women should be treated as 'human beings' she writes;

"Dismissing them those pretty Feminine phrases, which the men consideringly use to soften our slavish dependence, and despising that weak elegancy of mind, sensibility and sweet docility of manners, supposed to be the sexual characteristic of the weaker vessel, I wish to show that elegance is inferior to virtue that the first object of laudable ambition to obtain a character as a human. Kate Millet's 'The sexual Politics' (1969) is an important feminist work. she points out that the relation between the sexes is basically political as it is an arrangement 'whereby one group of persons is controlled by another,' (23) Kate Millet asserts the importance of freeing the woman from "immemorial subordination" which in the process can bring us a great deal closer to humanity" Elaine Showalter has centric approach to literary analysis. Her 'A Literature of Their Own' discusses the Female literary tradition. She conceptualize Gynocentrism, which is a woman own' she argues that woman's writing should explore female experience in its own right and form a comparative assessment of women's experience in relation to men

The Second wave Feminism was increasing theoretical, based on fusion of new – Marxism and psycho analytical - theory and began to associate the subjugation of women with broader critiques of Patriarchy, capitalism, normative heterosexuality and the women's role as wife and mother. The feminist scholars such as Juliet Mitchell, Shulamith Firestone, Kate Millet claim that Patriarchy is inherent to urge society and that sexual



difference is more fundamental than class and race differences. Kate Millet in the book ‘Sexual Politics’ insisted on women rights to their own bodies and a sexuality of their own, a sexuality that is connected from the oblige of marriage and motherhood. In Europe the authors like Helen Cixous, Luce Irigaray, and Julia kristeva in a articulated the different direction of Identity Feminism.

Third wave feminists are motivated by the need to develop a feminist theory and politics American term for third wave feminism. Is ‘girl’ feminism and in Europe it is known as ‘new feminism’ The third wave feminists contribution is the notion of transversal politics. Nira Yuval – Davis in her book ‘Gender and Nation’ (1997) launced the ‘transversal politics’. Donn Haraway’s ‘Cyborg’ contributed significantly to third wave Feminism. All the Feminist writers Margaret Atwood, Tonni Morrison Alice Walker, Zedie Smith ,Angela Carter created their own place in the History of feminism. And Doris Lessing is one of them ,a Nobel Prize Winner [2007] is a great feminist writer in the history of feminism. Doris May Taylor (Lessing) was born in Persia on oct 22,1919. Her father was a clerk in the imperial Bank of Persia. her mother had been a nurse for the sake of farming.

Lessing developed herself by reading the books of Dickens, Scott, Stevenson and Kipling formerly and later D.H. Lawrence, Stendhal, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. Lessing left home when she was fifteen and took a job as a nursemaid because of her mother. Lessing had bitter memories of her father’s experience of World War 1. In 1937 she moved to Salisbury where she worked as a telephone operator for a year. At thirteen, she married Frank Wisdom and had two children. Lessing’s fiction is deeply autobiographical, her experiences in Africa. Lessing depicted her childhood memories and serious engagement with politics and social concerns, Lessing has written about the clash of cultures, the gross injustice of racial inequality. her novel depicts the struggle among opposing element within on individuals own personality and the conflict between the individual conscience and collective good.

Works of Dories Lessing

Novels

- The Grass is singing
- The Golden Notebook
- Briefing for a Decent into Hell



- The Summer Before the Dark
- The Memories of a survivor
- The Good Terrorist
- The Fifth Child
- Love, Again
- Mara and Donn
- Ben, In the world
- Canpous in Argos : Archives Series
- Re.colonized Planet 5- Shikasta
- The Marriages Between Zones, three,
- Four and Five
- The Serian Experiments
- Agents in the Volyen Empire
- Children of Violence Series
- Martha Quest.
- A Proper Marriage
- A Ripple From The Storm
- Landlocked
- The Four Gated city

Doris Lessing wrote dramas and poetry also. The contemporary women's novel, except the works of Iris Murdoch, Muriel Spark, Doris Lessing and Margaret Drabble, A.S.Byatt is a distinct entity in tune with the female phases search for identity. Doris Lessing has been held as one of the pioneers of feminism Lessing's writing covers many styles and approaches ranging from feminism and Marxist theory of feminism Lessing's novel 'Martha Quest' is a milestone in her career. Lessing and Drabble see themselves as "trying to unify the fragments of female experience through the artistic vision, and they are concerned with the definition of autonomy for the woman writer".

Martha Quest :- The Children of Violence Doris Lessing's literary art Presents to the reader a deep insight into women's Psyche and emotional behavior. She tries to search for some kind of balance between male and female elements in human beings. The focal point of Doris Lessing's analysis is the protagonists mind inner life and forms of consciousness. Martha quest, is an autobiographical novel written shortly after the world war II, in which the relationship between the immigrant whites and the native blacks is presented from the point of view of a white woman. A Proper Marriage, Ripple from the Storm, Landlocked and the Four Gated City. Martha, the protagonist of the novel shows a rebellion in her teenage. She always protest the parents specially her mother. The struggle



for power between Martha and Mrs. Quest is a constant force which influences Martha's decisions in life. Martha's decision to marry Douglas is partly is a result of Mrs. Quest's interference, and the marriage presents Martha's eagerness to separate herself from her mother. Martha moved into town to work as a secretary.

Lanlocked is next novel in the sequence. In this novel sequence convey Maratha's disillusionment of communist party the novel marks a stage of transition from the political to the spiritual. In this novel we come to know that Martha's second marriage with Anton comes to an end. other characters Marie du Fraz, Betty Kruger Marjorie Black, Jasmin, these women were all disappointed like Martha. The Four Gated City is Last novel of the sequence shows Martha's spiritual state. It is the development of Martha's own consciousness on the symbolic level.

The Whole series is based on the self -analysis of the main character Martha Quest, who goes through a long and complex process of searching for the integrated self. As an illustration, Martha's vision of the ideal city is ,in fact, an image of integration. Roberta Rubenstein observes ;.

“Mary Turner tries to escape from anxiety and inner chaos by running first into the arms of Dick Turner and then of Moses Martha Quest runs in the opposite direction away from the arms of husband and daughter, determined to face her own inner Self ...” [The Novelistic Vision of Doris Lessing, 38].

Conclusion:-

Doris Lessing presented Martha's character develops from adolescence to adulthood, and how Martha looks for answers concerning her identity, marriage and carrier. Through the method of comparative analysis based on critical approaches regarding Feminism, gender and psychology. By the character of Martha Doris Lessing touched on the Fundamental issues of female identify which is spilt up by the world of culture and nature that play a major role in its formation. Lessing is not only a feminist writer but also a writer concerned with psychology, sociology and politics. It is clear that the formation of the female identity is a complex issue, which requires a psychological introspection of the women protagonists as well as the exploration of their outer selves. Lessing provides a deep insight into the women's mind and portrays their relations both to the male counterparts and to the society as a whole. Lessing's work and life have always shown her to be feminist, even if she is one of an unusual kind. Her Greatest work, The Golden



Notebook, *The Children Of Violence*, shows the power of the female imagination working at full throttle. It doesn't bear a simple political message but it does rip off the masks that women were accustomed to wear, and it shows up the dangers and difficulties that women encounter if they try to live a free life in a man's world. Lessing touched the women point of view to live 'free', the quest for self identity through her protagonists.

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