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❧ CONTENTS OF ENGLISH PART - II ❧

S. No.	Title & Author	Page No.
10	High School Students Usage of Social Media Networks Durga Bhavani Koritala Prof. Vanaja M.	55-61
11	Disagreement, Pains and Sufferings in Datta Bhagat's Play <i>Whirlpool</i> Ranvirkar S. G.	62-65
12	E-learning in Rural Area Academic Libraries Shankpale Jyoti Ramesh	66-70
13	Extravagant use of Gadgets by Kids in Present Era Yasmeen Fatema	71-74
14	Effect of COVID-19 on Indian Economy Nagre Vitthal Haribhau	75-80
15	Predicaments in Women's Conditional Life in P. Sivakami's: <i>The Taming of Women</i> Varsha Hiranman Kurhe Dr. Prakash Bhimrao Bhange	81-84


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15. Predicaments in Women's Conditional Life in P. Sivakami's: 'The Taming of Women'

Varsha Hiranman Kurhe

Research Scholar, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, S. R.T.M. University,
Nanded, State Maharashtra, India.

Dr. Prakash Bhimrao Bhangre

Assistant Professor, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, S. R.T.M. University,
Nanded, State Maharashtra, India.

Abstract

Dalits are dominated at the hands of upper caste people from ChaturVarra system. They are deprived of all the basic facilities and above all they are not given equivalent space in the social order which they deserve. The condition of the Dalit women is even more pitiable and one needs to lay highlighting on how they live on and lead their lives in these awful conditions. This paper is focus on the Dalit women's life getting more difficult in social order.

Keywords: Dalit, Caste, Gender

Introduction

P. Sivakami's work named 'The Taming of Women in 2012' represents foreknown aim through her work. Sivakami describes the social based difficulty the growth of Dalit women in their own life. The main female character of the novel is Anandhayi suffered a lot by gendered system in society. Novelist shows the reality of caste, gendered through the novel. She has explained the bright side of dalit women's journey of life with struggle, agony and stand for self respect. P.sivakami text characters of the novel Dalit men and women both are fight for self.

Discussion

The lead character of the novel, Periyannan lived in village. He is always aspiring for money and power. He is careless as for son, husband and father for his family. He is unhappy with his wife Anandhayi and mother named Vallaiyamma; she was old as age and unwell by health. With these two women he always quarrels with them. This novel wrote villain nature of Periyannan who get to beat his wife and lover Lakshmi. He lived his life as king and without any restrictions. He did not give respect to another person. P.Sivakami released Anandhayi's dreadful

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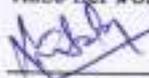
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condition of life she suffers at the hand of her husband Periyannan. There are many events in the novel informs about the trauma and agony of Anandhayi. When Anandhayi was pregnant her husband Periyannan took extra relation with another woman to sleep with him into his room. A novel quotes in words 'Periyannan came down and pushed aside Anandhayi not taking care of her pathetic condition. He was blind folded due to his lust towards another woman Lakshmi'. Here the nature is inhumane towards women by Periyannan in their house. Periyannan was irresponsible towards her wife Anandhayi. Sivakami outline the pitiable situation of the women in this novel. Vallaiyamma was the mother of Periyannan. She lived on her personal finances. If anyone suggests her to take a rest and live by son's money, she was getting angry. Here, mother and son both relations were not good. Novelist quotes here 'Periyannan mother never used to demand anything from his son because of his attitude. He never took care of his old ailing mother and this infuriated his mother as well. She decided not to live on the mercy of her son.'

Periyannan got a big building contract then he had thrown a bundle of money at her feet. He was insulted his mother, this act of his agony. The related quote represented the rigid nature of Periyannan. Mother was outcry at her if she had ever seen this much currency before in her lifetime. She was waiting for death to come and get her life. She was remembering her; her husband's memory hit her most of the time. Her husband committed suicide by drinking yerrcum poisonous plant milk and she could not forget how she was beaten and slapped by her husband. Next quote is 'Periyannan got angry and in the same condition he thrashed Anandhayi and abused her. Anandhayi was not able to bear the pain. The strong hands of Periyannan blew her away'. P. Sivakami had described that Periyannan as disrespectful character and the other male characters also. A worker named Vadakathiyaal came over to work for Anandhayi at home and in the farm. Anandhayi was upset to see Vadakathiyaal son's behavior. Here the quotes from vadakathiyaal's son threatened her by saying that "if I kick you once all your teeth will be broken at once". Vadakathiyaal suffered under the men in her family. She was not accorded respectability by her husband, her son and other men from her own family.

This shows that women are in front of trouble from the men in the society. The point of view presented through the text of the class, corruption and exploitation are everywhere. It has been practical that women are forced to responsibility at the very early age. Anandhayi was also pain at the hands of Periyannan. Periyannan dominating his wife but step by step she started to raise her voice. Periyannan was lived at another village and did extra affair with Lakshmi. Affair


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with Lakshmi knows Anandhayi as well but she never used to objection against the same. Uneducated and without economical support Anandhayi was weak for family. So she didn't take this fault in her stride and slap back at Periyannan. These lines are of Periyannan to her wife. He was taking doubt on Anandhayi and said that '... Things are strewn about this house and you don't seem to be interested in setting them in order. Did your secret lover get you this skirt? Hey stop those words, eh? And if I don't? I'll chop your hair off... You are a fine one to talk. You're the one who has a bitch around the house, and you accuse me of having a lover?' In the case of Anandhayi as well she is reliant on Periyannan. Anandhayi was taking needy things and money from Periyannan but he always used to blame and abuse her for the same. She was denied to insult from her husband and decided to stop the constant exploitation and insult. In this line by Anandhayi, 'Give me money... I have to go to Vahidha's. She spoke extra loud knowing that the children had left for school. Why? Ah, you used me, didn't you? For that. ... Only the hen that lays egg knows the pain. Not you.... You shut your gob, and give me respect. Kala is pregnant again. I cannot face my son-in-law. I have no money now you want to give, give, or else get out. I shall sell my nose ring and take care of the expenses'. This foregrounds the strong nature of Anandhayi who knows that if it happens it is going to be very hard for her and her children but she has a compact believe that she would be pleased to do so. The interpretation of Anandhayi could be taken as a motivation for many Dalit women who are frustrating to lead their lives. She expressed her independence through these lines 'You are saying new things. As if I did not get my share of kicks and blows. Didn't I stick with one man? Of course, you will say I had no other option because of my children. Even if I was separated from him, I would have stayed alone, never looked at another man'. The circumstances of the living conditions of women are changing significantly. There are various examples which are the indication of the fact that Dalit women are trying their best to have an alike position and uniqueness in our society.

Conclusion

P. Sivakami's Taming of Women is one of the examples of those courageous efforts and protests where Dalit women have started to question the norms of the society. Dalit women's are tried to challenge to set off the patriarchal society rules. Dalit Literature off late has tried to give the confidence and boost to the voice of women who are trying to fight against the gendered society.

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ENGLISH PART - III Peer Reviewed Refereed and UGC Listed

83

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84

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