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A QUEST FOR NATURAL IDENTITY OF A WOMEN IN SUDHAMURTHY'S "HOUSE OF CARDS"

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the psychic trauma of every woman and also to identify the intrinsic problem in a relationship. The society always concerns for the development of young generation, but somewhere they lose the consciousness of individual identity which is the basic foundation of every human character. Especially, female emotions are not validated by men. Sudhamurthy's "House of cards" the novel is great evidence to us about the female status in the patriarchal society. Character Mirdula and her journey talks about silent cry of every woman whoever lost their individual identity and surge for their inner peace. The novel has all the elements of Indian traditionalism where women are accustomed with their cultural norms. It showcases how women were neglected to gain their self-respect. However, she carries the moral values to the next generation.

KEYWORDS: Trauma, Individual identity, Traditionalism, Cultural norms, generation.

抽象的

本文的目的是分析每个女人的心理创伤，并找出一段关系中的内在问题。社会一直关注着年轻一代的发展，但在某些地方他们失去了作为每个人品格的基本基础的个体身份意识。尤其是，女性的情感并没有得到男性的认可。Sudhamurthy 的《纸牌屋》这部小说向我们展示了父权社会中女性的地位。角色 Mirdula 和她的旅程讲述了每个失去个人身份并为内心平静而涌动的女性的无声哭泣。这部小说具有印度传统主义的所有元素，女性习惯于她们的文化规范。它展示了女性如何被忽视以获得自尊。然而，她将道德价值观传递给下一代。

关键词：创伤、个人认同、传统主义、文化规范、世代。

DISCUSSION

The novel 'House of Cards' dealt with the psychological trauma of every woman who undergoes in different circumstance. It is an attempt to spot out the cause of serious problems

in family relationship. Female characters in the story were exactly associated with the real-life women. When their emotions, individuality, struggle was ignored by the patriarchal men characters, there life takes its turn. The novel

Received: October 05, 2021 / Revised: October 31, 2021 / Accepted: November 30, 2021 / Published: December 31, 2021

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makes a clear picture of the younger generation, and explicit how their mind adapts to the gender stereotype. It may Mirdula, Anita, Ratnamma, Lakshmi, Rosemarry or Neha, all they demanded is self-identity in different parts of their life. But their individual identity was closely associated with the people around them.

“Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and it’s beauty.” —Albert Einstein.

The novel begins with a beautiful description of the village ‘Aladahalli’ and the cosmos which makes the reader to have a sensible connection towards the characters and their lives. Mirdula, a young and intelligent girl who was the protagonist of the novel was a kind hearted person. She has a great enthusiasm over life and cares for everyone in the village. Her family members were also felt themselves so contented with their life without any extra luxuries. As Bheemanna was a head in the village, people consult with him on every occasion. Mirdula an innocent daughter of Bheemanna works as a teacher in that small village which was far away from all false modern amenities. She also took medicine training to help the poor and the needy in the village. Without any hesitation, she serves others.

Dr. Sanjay was a young, sincere doctor who hardly strives for his career growth. He was belonged to a traditional medical practitioner family. His mother Ratnamma was a highly hypothetical woman who strives hard for the financial stability of the family. After the death of Sanjay’s father, she owned a small shop near the Narasimha temple in T.Narasipura where she sells flowers, camphor, bananas and other Pooja items to the devotees and also lend money for interest to the localities. Her calculative nature

makes everyone to conclude her as a shrewd woman. Lakshmi was the only daughter to Ratnamma and an elder sister to Sanjay. She was married to Shankar, who works in a bank. As it was a joint family, all her sister in laws competes with each other to show off their husband’s wealth. Lakshmi was a spendthrift who always wants to enjoy the life with all the luxury, so she forces Shankar to buy all the costly household amenities in instalment.

Sanjay attended his friend’s marriage in Hubli where he met Mirdula for the first time. Soon he got attracted to her and proposed her through a letter. In the letter, he honestly mentioned about his short arm. This made Mirdula and the family members to accept his proposal, which turns into a happy wedlock in Aladahalli. They were like a young sapling who strives hard to root them up in the ground. Mirdula got a transfer to Bangalore where Sanjay enrolled himself in post-graduation. However, Mirdula compromise herself to settle down in the new place and adopted the environment by her friendly nature. Meanwhile, the couple has a healthy baby boy named Sishir who was mostly guarded by an elderly couple Muniappa and Kantamma. Muniappa was Mirdula’s school principal. Whenever Sanjay faced problems in his workplace, he hides it from Mirdula who always stands as an idealist. Still Dr. Sanjay felt contented with his job for serving the poor. But life took its twists to turn the life of Dr. Sanjay in the name of Dr. Saroja who purposely includes his name in the VIP case. This made him to know how he was treated as a scapegoat.

One cannot predict what his/her life holds in the future. When Alex and Anita visit Sanjay, Alex gave an idea about opening a private nursing home. Sanjay hesitant to make the decision at first; however, Mirdula substantiate

him to support morale. Thus, Sushruta Nursing Home built. It makes Sanjay more confident on his profession. Simultaneously, he learnt how things work out in the medical field and his continuous success made him to create an empire. On the other hand, Mirdula had become a Principal in her school. As usual, she took care of households with the help of servants.

“If a person is intelligent and an idealist, then he will be a good teacher. And if a man is intelligent and selfish, then he can go to any extent to get money. In the end, it is a personal choice about how closely we follow our own principles. – Dr. Kamala”

As Dr. Kamala says, Dr. Sanjay became addicted to money making and earned tremendous success in his profession. He made decisions without consulting his better half. Accordingly, Sishir completed his college who always been a hero worship of his father. For children, role model doesn't exist outside; it's their parents who actually mould them.

Dr. Sanjay Rao family attains a great fame. But things fall apart for Mirdula when she hits by the real face of her husband who cheated her both by financially and mentally. It's not about money; it's about the trust which she has on her husband. He made all his decisions without consulting her, but she believes that everything was discussed with her. While Mirdula was cheated financially by her husband, Anita was cheated by her husband who has an illegal affair.

“All liars don't deceive. But all deceivers are liars. All deceivers are not cheaters. But all cheaters are deceivers. – Anita” (Pg. no: 147)

In relationship trust and care is the base for happiness. When this gets broken it makes the bond dispel. Mirdula never longs for fake

luxuries or extra amenities, she felt herself complete with Sanjay as a loyal husband, but his growth made him superior in decision making. Whenever Sanjay and Shishir converse, they leave Mirdula blunt. Shishir became more calculative than his father. Moreover, he always prefers his father's decisions rather than his mother's because he believes that Mirdula sticks on conservative thoughts neither practical.

There is a saying, *“At twenty if you are not an idealist, then you don't have a heart. And if you continue being an idealist at forty, then you don't have brain.”* (pg.no: 155) This hurts her tremendously soon she undergoes treatment for depression. But Sanjay never bothers about her ailment. It sucks her the most. She lost interest in everything; she yearns for her lost happiness. Mirdula thinks about her duty in life; Sanjay was happy with his profession; Shishir has grown enough to make his own decisions. She thought about her marriage how they start life with less money. Soon she felt exhausted and made a strong decision of moving Aladahalli, where she can have recluse.

This paper attempts to highlight how the domestic rejection affects the glory of a healthy family. Sudhamurthy made her readers to explore with the domestic negotiation. As usual she leaves the climax entirely in reader's perspective that gave a path to think about the inner voice of every woman in this stereotypical society. In “House of cards”, character Mirdula and Sanjay travel with the mixed emotions and struggles of common Indian men and women. In most of the houses, violence happens without the knowledge of doing it to the other gender. Responsibility and duty to nourish a family, always gets stuck in the hands of women intrinsically, but appreciation or recognition has never given to her.

CONCLUSION

“Every woman wants to change her life but no man understands how. He showers his wife with gifts that he likes but not with what she wants. – Dr. Rao” (pg.no:211) Here lies the problem. Most men strive hard to make their family economically independent, rather they never listen to their family wish, especially in husband-and-wife relationship. When workaholic Sanjay started to bear his fruit, he forgot about his role as a genuine husband to Mirdula. His continuous success in profession and career made him to feel superior in life, but in reality he lost his character which left him aloof from Mirdula.

“Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.” —Hans Christian Andersen.

The protagonist Mirdula led her life as an idealist who always cares for his husband’s family. When her inner soul hurt with bitter reality, she lost her enthusiasm for life and suffered. She longs for her old Aladahalli days where she spent her fruitful days. It is important for anyone to carry their individual identity in the life and people should know how to value others ideology. This was peculiarly carved in the novel “House of Cards” by Sudhamurthy.

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