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PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF WOMEN IN DIPTI KULKARNI'S *SAVE GIRL AND FOUR WISE MEN*

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The word gender inequality being spread widely in the community is defined as inducing a girl child or a woman to oppress in all stages of her life from her birth till her death. If the child is a girl she will be aborted illegally and later proper education will not be provided when she grows up. The major reason for this is poverty and illiteracy. Our country has faced this gender discrimination for ages and even now it is still continuing in various forms. This study is based on the poems of Dipti Kulkarni in analyzing gender discrimination. Dipti Kulkarni aged 33 is an artist and also a software Engineer residing at New Jersey. She had a passion for art from her young age and was influenced by her mother who was also an artist. Kulkarni won an award from the Indian Consulate for her "Women's Rights and Empowerment" painting series. Kulkarni learned to pursue her passions from her mother. When referring to social issues she wanted to play her role in the society by helping the women to overcome the violence against them. When looking at the newspapers daily she never wanted the crimes related to women must continue and wanted them to be stopped. This was the trigger she got into doing something for the women's right in the society. Hence Kulkarni started using these social issues in her artworks and showcased it so that women will stand up and raise their voice to speak up for themselves.

A self-taught artist Dipti Kulkarni's *Save Girl* is based on the issues of forced abortion. There were a great struggle and emotion hid behind the words. They are joined together to produce a great frame of art that fights for gender equality. This is basically a conversation between a child and a mother that makes the readers in a lively state and as close to the reality. The poem starts with the conversation of a baby inside the womb and every paragraph ends with the question of a baby,

"Mom, how is the world outside?" (Kulkarni4)

The baby is a girl child and she sleeps, eats, kicks and plays. Even she could hear the sweet voice of her mother with immense joy and no sorrows are hidden in her. The girl baby could sense the mother's love towards her, where the baby is waiting eagerly to come out and see this worldly ride. She could spend her time by hearing the songs of her mother which is the song of happiness and spring. The baby girl could sense the hurt of her mother the previous night when she cried. The hurt and vibrations, the cry and emotions of her mother make the baby nervous and anxious. The baby whispered and kicked to find the answer but her mother never replied. The poem ends with the reply of the mother to be silent since they wanted a boy and not a girl. That is because the boy is treated as a diamond and pearl. Those lines that melt our heart is,

"I feel sorry, your life is short inside.

Sweetheart, the world is sick and unsafe outside"(Kulkarni20)

The headlines of the brutal act made all the human beings to be extremely upset globally to hear about the inhuman "Gang Rape". This inspired Kulkarni to write the poem *Four Wise Men*. It has an emotional ride throughout the poem that focuses on the woman who is helpless. It was an ill-fated night and a girl is walking alone down the street in the dim light. She could sense the shadow of someone walking along with her. Some footsteps followed her that made her heartbeat to rise since she is scared and frightened. She

thought that she would be the next victim. She could not guess what would happen to her next. She wished to have someone to help. There added a few more footsteps that made her in losing her hope for the future and she felt sorry for her family who had many expectations from her. Her eyes became wet and vision became blurred. She prayed to god and was in a need of someone to care for her. The heartbeat was racing rapidly as her footsteps. And all of a sudden there came four hands on her shoulders she screamed and cried. There comes a twist in the last line with the reply of the voice,

“We are the four wise men Respect, Care, Responsibility and Pride” (Kulkarni20)

The better linking of both the poems in this study is based on applying feminist theory. This theory focuses on analyzing the inequality of gender between male and female. This theory includes sexual objection, discrimination and oppression. This theory rose as early as 1794. This term feminism describes a political, economic and cultural movement aimed at establishing equal rights to women as compared to men. This theory of feminism was divided into three waves. The first feminist wave was from 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The second was from 1960s and 1970s. The third extends from 1990s to the present. This feminist theory emerged from these feminist movements.

The first poem is about the poor baby girl who does not even know if she is going to see the world. That is not her fault and her life is in danger even before she is born. By predicting the sex of the infant this abortion of a female fetus is done. The major reason behind this is that daughter is a liability and she will not contribute financially to her parents since she will be married off to another family. Rather son is an asset as he can earn and support the family. Even dowry plays a dominant role in Indian culture where durable goods, cash and property must be given by the bride's family to the bridegroom along with the bride.

It always depends upon the mindset of a person of having such an attitude as being the mother herself aborts her girl child that may include various other internal or external factors. We must not let the lives end before it begins. Save a girl and give birth to civilization. The girl should not be killed in the womb since she may bring the country to bloom. We must stick to the idea that a son is a son until he gets his wife, but a daughter is a daughter for her whole life. Man always thinks that he is a hero, but if he kills her he will just remain zero. In the second poem, the author never wanted the end to be in a state of darkness because only the hope keeps our life to move in a smooth way. The woman must emerge as strong person among those who treat her both physically and literally in an abusive way. The girl is not a victim here but the responsibility of the men in the society is to take care.

The conclusion of this study is, everyone must understand that a woman is the only one who makes the home either a heaven or a hell. Never consider a female as a weaker sex. 'Fe' stands for iron and 'male' stands for man, together female must be like an iron man. Family is an institution where both men and women must be treated equally without any discrimination. A woman is equal to a tea bag. We never know how strong it is until it is kept in hot water. Hence avoid all the discriminations within the family and have a melodious song combined with high and low notes.

#### Work Cited

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