

International Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

*Indian Streams
Research Journal*

Executive Editor
Ashok Yakkaldevi

Editor-in-Chief
H.N.Jagtap

Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

Regional Editor

Dr. T. Manichander

Mr. Dikonda Govardhan Krushanahari
Professor and Researcher ,
Rayat shikshan sanstha's, Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu College, Kolhapur.

International Advisory Board

Kamani Perera Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences[PK]
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pinteau, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea,Romania	George - Calin SERITAN Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, IasiMore

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh,Ratnagiri,MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University,Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yalikal Director Managment Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU,Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University,Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary,Play India Play,Meerut(U.P.)	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director,Hyderabad AP India.	S.KANNAN Annamalai University,TN
	S.Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	Satish Kumar Kalhotra Maulana Azad National Urdu University
	Sonal Singh, Vikram University, Ujjain	



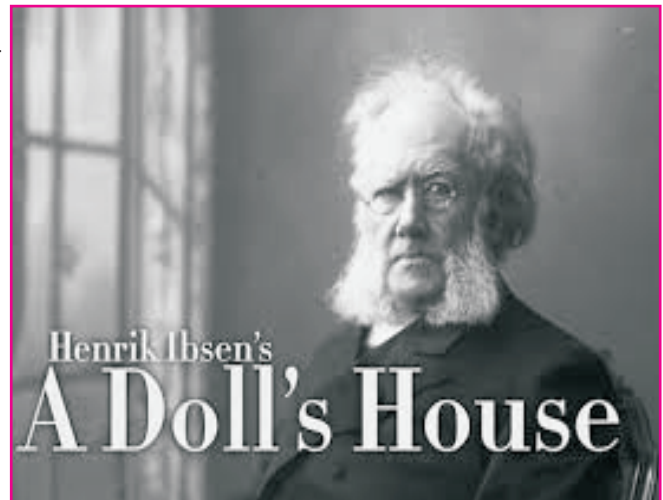
A PROTEST AGAINST ABUSE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NARAYAN'S *THE DARK ROOM* AND IBSEN'S *DOLL'S HOUSE*

Mr. Mali Abhimanyu Sopan

Assistant Professor , Department of English ,
Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Pandharpur.

ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the comparative study of Henry Ibsen's *Doll's House* and R.K. Narayan's *The Dark Room*. The main objective is to disclose the subjugation and the worst situation of housewife in her home. The word abuse relates to the Predicament of two housewives. Despite the education, social and constitutional reforms, the subordination of women is still persisting even today. The social structure and cultural norms do not change as rapidly as it must be. A woman is considered inferior to man except in physical beauty. But instead of approving the beauty of woman as a gift, man has found ways to exploit her in that also. Several writers have made conscious and sustained attempts to analyze the predicament of women from various angles. ed upon them. In and outside the temple there are nine Theerthas which add to the importance of this temple.



KEYWORDS- Abuse, a male domination, patriarchy, predicament, subjugation, etc.

INTRODUCTION :

Since ancient period women have been considered completely inferior to the male. The patriarchal system insists to suggest that woman's ultimate salvation is in service of man. Even *Manu* in his *Manusmriti* considers wife, as the 'half' of the husband. However, he admits that man is lord and master. He must be adored and obeyed even if devoid of all virtues. (Manu.101-102)

Women are internally oppressed by wrong social values that indicate the real condition of women. Right from the childhood women have been socially trained to develop values and behaviour patterns that are restricted to the female. As a result woman does not have enough courage to go against the established pattern; she thus grows up as a male dominated personality and prefers to live in a subjugated status. They tend to consider themselves inferior human beings. However, there is one area where women are recognized as superior to men i.e. in physical beauty, but instead of honouring beauty as a gift to womanhood, Man has invented ways to exploit her in that too. There are two types of currents or moral values in our society. One is for men and second is for woman. Man dominates woman like a property. She cannot enjoy her individual life in male dominated society. All the lows are made in favour of male. Woman means slaver, a doll who act as per the whim.

The paper attempts to analysis the portrayal of women character in the writings of *Henry Ibsen's Doll's House* and *R.K. Narayan's The Dark Room*. These two literary works focus on women's predicament on different

level. Narayan's portrayal of female characters is based on his observation of Indian women's social status. While Ibsen seems to have based on autobiographical experience and imagined other women's condition. Though, both the writers wrote differently in different cultures, views and style, the underlying idea is the same. The stories are similar in them except slight margin which apart them.

Ibsen's *A Doll's House* is a story about a couple *Nora Helmer* and *Torvald Helmer*, *Nora* is portrayed as responsible housewife who takes care of every little thing. She is a very 'happy housewife' with her husband, the lawyer –*Torvald Helmer*. The preparations of *Charismas Eves* suggest that they are still very much in love even after eight years of marriage. For *Helmer*, *Nora* is rather careless with his money. Sometimes she deals with *Helmer* like a child. Actually she is not a doll but a woman with womanly aspirations like love, hope, and fear. However, her happiness is not real. *Nora* feels that she is not independent. It is because *Helmer* treats her as his own assets or as a doll. *Nora* is indulged in forgery to save her husband's life, for which she is being blackmailed by *Krogstad*. But he, instead of appreciating her act, criticizes her as a liar and criminal. However, she is saved by her old friend, *Mrs. Linde*. Ultimately *Nora* leaves her *Helmer's* house and children forever.

On the other hand R.K. Narayan in *The Dark Room* presents the plight of a housewife in the changing scenario of modern India. It gives a picture of domestic disharmony between *Savitri* and *Ramani*; *Savitri* is a submissive house wife of India. Dominated and neglected by her husband. She is a timid, silent suffering and sacrificing Indian wife. She is very beautiful and faithful to her husband. *Ramani* is strict person but insensitive and arrogant about *Savitri*. He doesn't treat her well and considers her to be inferior to him. She is like a slave to her husband. When she hears the affair between her husband and *Shantabai*, she decides to leave him and commits suicide. But a burglar saves from drowning in the river. She realizes that impracticality of her choice and returns home to brood in *The Dark*.

She has to listen to the mean comments of *Ramani* when his choice of food is not served. He curses, the cook and freely taunts his wife. When he sits on breakfast table his first question is -

“Who selected the vegetables for this meal?”

“Why”

“Brinjals, cucumber, radish, and greens, all the twelve months in the year and all the thirty days in the month. I don't know when I shall have decent food to eat if the cook can't cook properly, do the work yourself. What have to do better than that?” (2)

When *Gangu*, the chatty, advanced wife, tells her about *Ramani's* betrayal, she dares to ask about it to her husband but he dismisses her objections. He bounces back and asks her to get out of the house. She realizes that it is invain to persuade him from his infidelity. She thinks.....

“Perhaps I am old and ugly. How can I help it?
I have borne children and slaved for the house”. (78)

She pitifully prepares herself to win his heart by refreshing her charm and desires that he may come and love her as boisterously as he loved her in the first week of their marriage.

“Thinking over her past individual past life and her kids she regrets difference between a prostitute and a married woman? The prostitute changes her men, but a married woman doesn't, that's all, but both earn their food and shelter in the same manner”. (93)

Both the characters, *Nora* and *Savitri* are living happily in their husband's homes, in the service of and mentally their husband and children. They thought marriage as a safeguard, for financially, physically. *Helmer* is strict person but loves *Nora* deeply. He is aware of her help in the household and loves her passionately. But the moment the realization comes; *Nora* and *Savitri* turn into completely different human beings. They change into revolting personalities for their privileges. *Nora* revolts strongly against her husband and succeeds, *Savitri* also revolts but returns, defeated.

Savitri leaves her house, but her husband doesn't stop her because he was well aware that she is a typical Indian woman who doesn't know how to survive in outer world. He knew that *Savitri* leaves her house but shortly returns back in the same cage. She seeks self-realization right from the beginning of the novel. But as a wife and mother she finds herself feeble.

"how impotent she was, she thought, she had not the slightest power to do anything at home and that after fifteen years of married life, *Babu*, did look very ill and she was powerless to keep him in bed. She felt she ought to have all would have been well"(5)

The decision of surrender before her husband is the result of a male attitude towards woman. However, *Savitri* decides not to yield before the whims of her husband as she used to earlier. *Savitri's* return resembles the rich Indian tradition and culture of strong domestic ties. A woman can discover her identity by acquiring her independence and she also realizes the importance of education for self-confidence.

"What can I do by myself? Unfit to earn a handful of rice except begging. If I had gone to the college and studied I might have become a teacher or something. It was very foolish of me not to have gone on with my education. (93)

This recognition helps *Savitri* to move from the *Dark Room* to illumination. The modern woman advantages herself through education that helps in strengthening her moral and ethical values. *Savitri's* unsuccessful effort of standing on her feet and returning to her husband are rather feeble. But it indicates a great soar in the direction of woman's liberation. While comparing *Savitri* to traditional middle class wife M.K. Naik says-

"the victim in *Savitri* the name recalls the archetypal constant wife of Hindu legend, who finding her husband infatuated with a working middle class Hindu wife is all but helpless, cut off from home. She pockets her pride and return defeated to her unrepentant husband..... (161)

In *A Doll's House* *Nora* commits legal immorality to save *Helmer* from illness some eight years back. For this she had to borrow money from Mr. Krogstad, a clerk, in the bank from whom she could get the money. It was her great blunder with bank of copying the signature of her father. It creates a lot of trouble to *Nora*. She becomes anxious, distressed, tense. Consequently at once she thought of ending her life. When *Helmer* reads Krogstad's letter and confronts her with it. He calls *Nora* "A hypocrite, a liar, worse than a criminal

At this juncture a note is delivered. It informs her that he regrets what he has done and returns her IOU (transaction). He tears up the notice and an offer to forgive. But *Nora* is sarcastic about this mercy. She blames her husband for never understanding her and accuses him of not truly loving her. *Nora* succeeds as she is more confident than *Savitri* who finds fault with herself. Before leaving, *Nora* prepares everything for her children and then declares her decision to *Helmer*. He tries to stop her. He is still worried about his false status in society. But *Nora* leaves and never returns. She says

“you only thought, how nicest was to be in love with me’ first her father end then Helmer .She insists , has treated her as a ‘doll’ a plaything, and not allowed to make everything of her life, she had not seen happy. And she had been to Helmer only a doll wife”.

On the other hand *Savitri* is totally feeble and helpless before husband. She leaves her husband and children without any arrangement for her children. But very soon she becomes homesick and recalls her children and returns home. Rejecting Helmer's offer to make it different thereafter, Nora announces her intention to leave him. He pleads with her, but Nora is static on her decision. “I don't accept things from strangers” she says. Helmer hears the door being slammed behind her. Nora steps out with firm decision not to return back to Helmer.

G.B. Shaw writes “Nora's revolt is the end of a chapter of human history. The slam of the door behind her is more momentous than the cannon of Waterloo. Actually, what differentiates this play is the sudden turn that Nora takes near the end when she says-

“Torvald, sit down, you and I have a lot to say to one another;
And it was by this new technical feature”

For Helmer it is shame and he blames her of dishonesty. He orders her to quit the house by leaving children. As a matter of fact Nora is expecting support from him. She is shocked by his stand and recognizes that Helmer never loves her and he would not sacrifice for her sake as she has done.

Both Nora and Savitri have similar spark that arouses the impudent nature in them. They are at the same level when their faith has shattered. They understand the truth and start the struggle. In their quarrel, their inner will power helped them to profound their horizon and protest against traditional role of a wife and mother

REFERENCES:

1. R.K. Narayan, *The Dark Room* New Delhi .Indian thought publications, 2007.
2. K.R. Iyengar, *Srinivasa Indian Writing In English*, Delhi. Sterling Pub. 2006.
3. Ibsen, *A Doll's House* New Delhi: Oxford U Press. 1989.
4. Ramshastri Joshi, *Shri Sarth Manusmruti*, Pune. Shri. Gurudev pub. 1988.
5. M.K Naik, *A History of Indian English Literature*, Delhi Sahitya Akademi, 01, 1989.
6. <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php> -Marriage in Hinduism
7. Nitashaloria *European academic Research - vol. Iii, issue 2 /*, Jammu (J&K) India May 2015.



Mr. Mali Abhimanyu Sopan
Assistant Professor , Department of English ,
Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Pandharpur.

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal

For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- * International Scientific Journal Consortium
- * OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- Google Scholar
- EBSCO
- DOAJ
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Indian Streams Research Journal
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.isrj.org