

A Study Of Human Rights In Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice Candy Man

(1) Nilofer amin, research scholar.
(2) Dr. Baburam Nayak, Associate professor .

Abstract:

As the title suggests, this article is a study of Bapsi Sidhwa's prominent novel *Ice Candy Man*. The sheer aim of this research paper is to confer the violation of human rights in the *Ice Candy Man*. The novel exhibits the real scenario of partition period that how the male behaves with the women, how women were kept to the periphery of the society, how children were subjugated and men were the puppets for the religious, political leaders. Writer presents the contumacy of human rights and extreme negative condition of people during the separation period in 1947. Through the fictional characters of Lenny, Ayah, Imam Din, writer narrates the scenario of how political changes impact people of subcontinent. *Ice Candy Man* shows the scenes of suffering of people, especially the women and children during that period. So, I use the feministic theory and the theory of human rights to analyse this novel. Both feminism and the theory of human rights plays a vital role in highlighting the issues of children and women rights. Here in this novel analysis the factual happening and incident of society and suffering of the people.

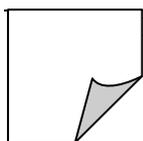
Key words: Human rights, feminism, inequalities, women suffering, violation, partitions.

Date of Submission: 28-11-2023

Date of Acceptance: 08-12-2023

I. Introduction

Partition of India and Pakistan (1947) is one of the most terrible events in the history of subcontinent. Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *Ice Candy Man* (1988) depicts the real scenario of Indo-Pakistan partition war of 1947 and the aftermath of the period through the fictional characters of her novel. This is the prime novel written by a lady writer from Pakistan where she narrates the fortune of the people in the city of Lahore. *Ice Candy Man* begins with the poetry of Dr. Allama Muhammad from his poem *Complaint to God*, with this, 'the child narrator Lenny' is introduced in the novel. Lenny a four years old Parsee girl who is suffering from polio for which her one leg is paralyzed. She is very close to her Ayah who is an 18 years old lady who is staying with Lenny all the time throughout the day. Lenny is very honest and she rarely tells lie. She always gets anxious about her surrounding that what will happen to her country after the partition happened. Lenny discovers her community between the Waris Road and Jail Road is restricted by the army personnel. The restriction everywhere makes her feel all alone and depressed all the time. This novel portrays a elementary action of a gynocritic view of real society where the female mind and her experiences are represented with a great style. The fictional characters of the novel are responding and confirm of their unique identity and cannot be easily subjected by the patriarchal society. Lenny, her mother, Santa her nanny and her grandmother shows their autonomous identity and selfhood of bringing current roles and responsibilities in her family. This novel also shows the patriarchal biasedness in the society. So, I am analysing the novel regarding the human rights perspective and feministic aspect. Through this I am taking the fundamental issues of women, children which they suffer during the partition period. Feminism is a concept that depicts a very pivotal function in showing the role of women in the male governing society. Here women are taken as below in every aspect than male and the children are oppressed all the time by the men and leaders. Most of the writers discuss about the different solution to the bereavement of women, subjugation and harassment of children based on their caste, religion gender and creed. In *Ice Candy Man* writer describes about number of fictional people who rescued and lived without harm during the most terrible period of 1947 division era. The book shows the reasonable and real incidents of religious conflict and challenging political scenario, mental trauma, killings, sufferings of innocent children. *Ice Candy Man* is narrated by a female leading character Lenny's point of view who share and observes her personal suffering and experiences of that period. She talked about the man's behaviour towards the women, children's suffering and how they are forced to learn religious subjects. She talks about the man's lustful desires towards the women and how they treat her like a sex object for physical pleasure. In this novel we even see the theme of injustice and unfairness. Hence, this paper depicts the various issues and sufferings of male dominating



community and also portrays the attentions on suffering of women and children in the day-to-day life, on the notion of feministic and human rights perspectives.

II.Literature review

Cracking India(1991) which was originally published as *Ice Candy Man* novel by Bapsi Sidhwa. This is the primary text of my research paper. It is a pioneer text which talks about the Indo- Pakistan partition era and its consequences through the eyes of a four years old little girl Lenny. This novel ably balances the prosaic life and suffering of people during that age. This helps me to identify the issues and circumstances that lead to very problem in my paper.

Earth is a movie which produced by Geeta Mehta based upon the *Ice Candy Man* screened in the year of 2005. This movie starring the girl Lenny who is suffering from polio and narrates the situation of Indo Pakistan war through her point of view. This movie got so much international recognition by the audience.

“War mothers in a non-fiction and two fictional works on the liberation war of Bangladesh” is an article published in the year of 2015 by Shehenaz Shetty. This article shows the condition of people and violation of human rights during the war period specially in India.

“Introduction: The Literature of Human Rights” is an article by Promod K Nayar which was published in the year of June 2016. In this article Nayar gives an insight to society about the human rights values and ethics. Through that article he exposed the social equality and justice through which people will enjoy the liberty and freedom of speech freedom from the fear of living openly.

“Annihilation of human beings in Pakistan society: The link between past and present violence with the reference to Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man*” is an article written by Ehsaan et al., in the year of 2016. In this article writer wrote the Indian partition is a result of religious turmoil, and social disturbances which was artificially made by leaders of that period. This article shows the conflict between the Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus and how they are unknowingly indulged with the dirty politics. This paper mainly shows the Lenny's life, but kidnapping of her Ayah shattered her total life. In a very little time Lenny gets to know the actuality of the society. She got that there is so much hurdles to get a human right. South Asian women have been suffering from high rates of abduction and forceful sex and get pregnant during the very early period of partition and no one was listening to their sufferings.

III.Human rights

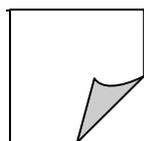
Human rights are the rights that a person privileged for being born as a human being. Rights are always equal to human being and to others rights are the bigger category and human rights are biggest of all the category. The universal declaration of human rights was adopted by United general assembly on 10th of December 1948. Its implementation and adaptation are considered as the milestone of development of international human rights law. Human rights are not static in the nature. It is changing day by day with the requirement of the human being. There is minimum six features which are important to the human rights according to universal declaration of human rights. First of all, right to live without any hesitation. Secondly rights of caste, religion, gender, race, colour. Thirdly they should not be judged by their religion and colour and sex. Fourthly all have same rights all over the world in all the countries.

IV. Analysis of the novel

Bapsi Sidhwa presented the little narrator Lenny who narrates the story. During this narration she also noticed the position and alteration of the people's behaviour. That men and women are equal they should be given the equal rights in the society but it was not happening during that time. Sidhwa uncover the society only think women are periphery to the society and they are only to the household chores and taking care of children and elder person of the family or home. But writer has a helpful approach toward the woman and child rights.

V.Results

As the matter of result concern there are loads of consequences that are dwelling in the *Ice Candy Man* which novelist highlights, and there is a great need to overcome these issues at the earliest possible of time. The main issue is the inequality of the gender which is a main problem. Through the character of Lenny's father, it is showed that he is dominating person he never listens to his wife or daughter. Through other characters of the novel, we can see that women are only treating as a sex object or the person who is only involved to the house not to any other works. So, there is necessary of changing of mind think positive. All the religion teaches about the gender equivalence and equal right according to universal declaration of human rights. Through the character of Lenny who is a child we can see the violation of child rights as her rights to education, rights to speak was taken away. Through the character of Ice Candy Man, we see the love relationship of him with ayah. On seeing the Muslims massacre which happened he goes mad in rage and keeps his lady love in Hira Mandi in Lahore. Later he realises his wrongness to marry to Hindu girl as society is not going to accept it. With the fear he left her and



Ayah was rescued and is taken to a rescue camp in the Amritsar. It shows the violation of human rights as a man does not have right marry a person as per his wish and he gets into the trauma for it.

VI. Religious perspectives on human rights:

In each religion, there are equal and fair rights for men, women and children. No where it is shown as inferior to one another. It is their legal right to live their life and acquire skill what they want. In each religion it is said that men and women both are born independent. According to Islamic perspective woman have equal right as man. Islam bestows the law for the subjugation of women and women disrespect. There is only require to take the action and steps to control the mis happenings. In Islam, sexual activities between men and women are considering strictly prohibited. It is considered as a massive sin. There is a strict law against it, which we are seeing violating during the partition period, as men were forcedly doing sex with women pregnant them for which women went through the mental and physical trauma.

VII. Conclusion

In *Ice Candy Man*, writer unveil the scenario of the male dominating society and the existences of women and children it. Through this novel, she narrates the rights of woman, children and also says that they are not less than to men. They have also some wishes which they wanted to fulfil in the life. So, writer talked about the liberty of the children and women in their life. Hence, the Characters in the novel try to improve their condition and position in the society even after they suffer in the male dominating society. The novel poignantly narrates the mindless partition and consequences of it mainly to women and children. It is a right of the citizen that they must get married to their own choices, a must woman or men lives where they want to and right to education of the children, right to speech. So, Bapsi Sidhwa is fortunate and successful to exhibit the real portrait of the society and work human rights.

References

- [1]. Cristopher, S. (Ed.). (2012). Aristotle's Politics, Chapter 12. The Oxford Handbook Of Aristotle.
- [2]. Durrani, T. (1995). My Feudal Lord. London: Transworld Publishers.
- [3]. Ehsan, M., Tabassum, R., & Shah, K. (2015). A Study Of Sexual Harassment And Violence Against Women In Feudal Society With Special Reference To My Feudal Lord By Tehmina Durrani. Journal Of Literature, Languages And Linguistics, 15.
- [4]. Ehsan, M., Khan, M. Y., Ayub, M., M., Ayub, A. M., & Irshad, H. (2016). Annihilation Of Human Beings In Pakistani Society: The Link Between Past And Present Violence With Reference To Sidhwa's Ice Candy Man. International Journal Of English Research, 2(3), 62-66.
- [5]. Shaheed, F. (1991). The Cultural Articulation Of Patriarchy. In F. Zafar (Eds.), Finding Our Way: Readings On Women In Pakistan (Pp.135-158). Pakistan: ASR Publications.
- [6]. Shahraz, Q. (2001). The Holy Woman. Pakistan: Black Amber Books.
- [7]. Shahraz, Q. (2003). Typhoon. London: Black Amber Books Limited.
- [8]. Sidhwa, B. (1998). Ice Candy Man. India: Penguin Books Ltd.
- [9]. Khalil, Muhammad Zohaib Et Al., "Sidhwa's Feministic Thought In Ice Candy Man: A Feministic Study In The Light Of Religion And Social Laws." Studies In Literature And Language, Vol.14, No.2, 2017, Pp.26-29
- [10]. UNESCO. (19099). Institute De Recherche Sur La Résolution Nonviolente Des Conflits (IRNC) 7. United Nations Educational, Scientific And Cultural Organization: Place De Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07 SP Frances

