

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

Sumitra D'Chetty

Deptt.of English.

Narangī Anchalik Mahavidyalaya.

ABSTRACT

Virginia Woolf in her work, *A Room of One's Own*, basically discusses about women and their problems and the reason why they are always backward in their respective areas. Women in our society as such have no liberty to do what they like. Even education has not been able to change the old perspectives and beliefs. They are still a neglected lot, both at home and workplace yet they sacrifice to keep others happy. Their devotion cannot be questioned. Time has come that they cannot be always the doormat, they should learn to say 'No' appreciably and utilise all the rights law has ascribed to them to higher strata of life. Others should not forget the fact that they are individuals with their own likes and dislikes. Women should throw the chains or all that binds them and liberate themselves from age old beliefs and practises. They should fight for themselves and not depend on others for any support. Having a room of one's own and a certain amount of financial freedom is one of the best things to happen to any educated woman.

KEYWORDS: Room, Liberty, Beliefs, Doormat, Appreciably, Financial.

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

Sumitra D'Chetty

Deptt.of English.

Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya.

INTRODUCTION

Women have always been neglected for various reasonable or unreasonable aspects . A girl in the family always has to share her room with her siblings , be it brother or sister. She has no privacy infact no one thinks that a girl(daughter/sister) may need some privacy, time to herself , a study table of her own, a bed of her own. She has been always taught to share her needs and her compromises are seen to be her duty. Infact , sharing her room , her world , is that called a duty?. A woman is born in one home and has to spend her life in her husband's home making compromises, adjustments and sacrifices. She does it and once in a while she rebels , successful and has to spend her life in her husband's home making compromises, adjustments and sacrifices. She does it, and once in a while she rebels , successfully or not . Her adjustments continue all her life. A woman is supposed to share everything in life, willingly or unwillingly.

OBJECTIVE

Women themselves should shake away the feeling of sacrifice and learn to say no. They should learn to ask or take their rights. They should think of themselves, which doesn't mean giving up their responsibilities or family. Others in the family should also learn the fact that women are also individuals. It is up to women themselves to liberate themselves from the age-old beliefs and practices, not depend on others to fight for them.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based both on primary and secondary data, the primary data being the text by the author. The secondary data was collected from the various publications, references, reviews and analysis.

DISCUSSION

Women are drawn between the two worlds of women's cultural and materials poverty .Women have their own way of judging things which would access them to larger issues and ideologies. It is found men have suppressed women in every aspects. The resultant is the men have judged women writers as not to have possessed great ideologies and see that women do not take upperhand.

Virginia Woolf took on herself and surveyed areas be it Oxford College or libraries, she found women were decried upon. She was totally aghast that nothing about women or her feelings were written. Whatever little writing was, it was basically relegated to do something, to make women's existence impeccable in society.

Women are financially constrained, hence they lack being an important element in their families. Having financial security, gives the power and they cannot be stopped in their journey. Intellectual freedom is also dispensable, but women always were given raw footage, stifled in their success. Again women are seen to be more inclined to writing novels than poetry. As women write, domestic chores disturb them, hence cannot write in continuation as the men who in fact have their own space to work. A woman does not even have a space accurately a room of her own to sit, think and write. She always shares her room and never has privacy in the real sense. Woolf opined, 'Financial insecurities was supposed to be one very important reason for not being too successful'.

Virginia Woolf's *A Room of her Own* can be regarded as the 'Bible of Feminism'. This essay conceptualises her mainstay on the matter that 'a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write a fiction.' A woman is always made the sacrificial victim at the altar of life right from the day she is born, her life is a tale of sacrifice – brother, husband, son and grandson. She has to do it, she even has to share her room with her siblings. For creativity, a room of her own is essential but she faces deprivation. This essay is seen as a feminist argument for both literal and physically space for women writer's within the literary territory dominated by men. This essay is very convenient in using as an analysis tool for any female related work where women play a central role.

Feminism has become a common usage in the contemporary world with 'women's lib', 'women's reservations' terms used to bring women at the same level. Woolf observes women have been kept away from writing because of poverty which are relative in matter. It is necessary for a woman to have her own room where she can create/destroy her art. But it was a rare case. Women also need personal and liberty to do what this mind intends. She wanted for women equal rights, no sentimentality nor any protection just pure realism.

Woolf wanted to inculcate in women the range of human qualities where ideas related to human nature was decipherable. The essay aims to present the individuality and the process of self-fulfilment. For some females, it is just an issue to ponder or fight reasoning that women are oppressed and victimised only because they are women. And their only recourse is political struggle for power and all other issues take a backseat. *A Room of One's Own* visualises divisive and discordant everywhere in curriculum, syllabus, employment press, political representation and others. Woolf opines, 'A woman must honestly express what they feel and not what they were taught to think and act according to a bourgeois sense of values.

Kate Millet is mentioned by Virginia Woolf as her ideal in the book *Sexual Politics* where she remarks about the 'real' differences between the sexes which cannot be known or understood until treated on par. Men have to be less aggressive domineering while woman less passive if they are to survive in this world. Female passivity and male aggressiveness are products of social conditioning. It is in the difference of sex that the need of sex and need of sexual intercourse that one can find the reasons for the real differences – none of which are in men's favour. The problem of sex in women

are created by men for their sex is free of neurosis. They are capable of intercourse performing the sexual act, doing it or making love even if not enjoying it. A man must play, work up to be profoundly geared up for the sexual enjoyment he perceives. If a man cannot prove his virility which is symbolised in his erection, he will try being overbearing everywhere. His body is at the mercy of deep longing bruised to dominate, subjugate and conquer. Man is not always or most of the time unsuccessful in satisfying the woman. He is not very certain of his ability and is always ready to prove the inferiority of women. Women love sex play as they need agreement, affection, reciprocal, control or power to shower them with finesse for such love play. A man loves his penis, he is proud, and also anxious of it. Novels of D.H. Lawrence, Arthur Miler's plays, Virginia Woolf's polemic supplemented some psychanalytical analyses could give a fresh interpretation to literary criticism.

Virginia Woolf's analyses has given us some peep into social science where the transition of sex is taken as a rational virtue along with natural characteristics of men in general. *A Room of one's own* is a landmark of twentieth century feminist thought. It explores the history of women in literature through an unconventional and highly provocative investigation of the social and material conditions required for the writing of literature. These conditions –leisure time, privacy and financial independence –underwrite all literary production, but they are particularly relevant to understanding the situation of women in the literary tradition because women, historically have been uniformly deprived of those basic prerequisites.

CONCLUSION

Woolf comes up with provocative sociological and aesthetic critiques. She reviews not only the state of women's own literature, but also the state of scholarship, both theoretical and historical, concerning women. She also elaborates an aesthetics based on the principles of 'incandescence', the ideal state in which everything.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Hussey, Mark and Vara Neverow, eds. *Virginia Woolf: Emerging Perspectives*. New York: Pace UP, 1994. ILL (various entries cross-referenced).
2. Marcus Jane. "Sophistry: Narration as Lesbian seduction in *A Room of One's Own*." *Virginia Woolf and Language of Patriarchy*. Bloomingtonz : Indiana UP, 1987.
3. Roe, sue. *Writing and Gender : Virginia Woolf 's Writing Practice*. New York : St. Martin's Press. 1990.
4. Roseman, Ellen. *A Room of one's own: Women Writers and the Politics*. New York: St. Martins Press.1990.
5. Thompson Nicola. 'Some theories of one's own room : Orlando and the Novel. *Studies in the Novel* 25 (1993): 306-17. Links Room to Orlando (written at the same time) in regard to the theme or gender and literature.
