

Original Paper

A Postcolonial Feminist Appraisal of Pakistani English

Literature

Rida Zainab¹, Maria Liaqat¹, Pakeeza Fatima¹ & Hassan Bin Zubair²

¹ BS English, Department of English, Superior College, Mian Channu, Pakistan

² Head of English Department, Superior College, Mian Channu, PhD Scholar (English Literature), Department of English, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, Pakistan

Received: March 23, 2022

Accepted: April 15, 2022

Online Published: April 25, 2022

doi:10.22158/jetss.v4n2p7

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22158/jetss.v4n2p7>

Abstract

This research explores women's position in Pakistani society. Women are considered an interesting topic for researchers. The following research will show women's empowerment in male-dominant backgrounds. This research offers a close analysis of women's presentations by Pakistani English writers. This research is qualitative in nature. It provides a detailed account of information about postcolonial feminism and feminist writers of contemporary times. Portraiture of women is clear in the works of Pakistani English writers. The whole task will be accomplished with the impact of Colonialism. Pakistani modern writers have analyzed and discussed different issues related to women by portraying female characters in their works. Pakistani feminism is considered a part of Post Colonial fiction. Writers have introduced multiple dimensions of feminism. The main purpose of this research is to highlight different aspects which were caused by feminism. The study presents a detailed examination of females adjustment and its effect with great respect to Post Colonialism.

Keywords

Feminism, Postcolonial, Writers, Fiction, Pakistan

1. Introduction

The writers have argued that feminism is a movement about women's rights. According to Allan (1997), feminism is a term for gender equality. For Writers, feminism is not only a single concept it is regarded as a global movement. In Pakistan, it is difficult for people to evaluate the concept of feminism from social, cultural, and political perspectives. Literature is considered a reflection of society. It is easy to understand feminism through the development of female characters in Pakistani works. Shahid Shuharwardi and Ahmed Ali's works are regarded as the foundation of feminism. The

main theme of feminism can be seen in the works of Mohammed Hanif, Bapsi Sidhwa, Zulfiqar Ghous, and Bapsi Sidhwa as well. *Twilight In Delhi* is a famous example in which the main character Bilqees shows a different view that was never seen before. The main reason for this feministic theory was British Imperialism. If we talk about Britishers they brought a new idea related to the rights of women. In the Post-Colonial era, many writers put their thoughts not only in English but in Urdu as well. Famous writers like Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi and Saadat Hassaan Manto highlight the question related to women's freedom. "Hina Faisal Imam" and "Zulfiqar Ghous" were also regarded as the pioneers of feministic theory. In the modern period, Writers like Mohsin Hamid and Muneeza Shamsi gave this feminism a new direction. This study is an effort to describe feminism concerning Post Colonialism. "The basic reason for this feministic approach was British Imperialism which brought the thought of women empowerment and rights for women in the name of feminism and feministic theory" (Rahman, 2015).

2. Literature Review

The history of human records and its development can't be described just through the term a female or a male. Both female and male have their component to play in this adventure and are an enhancement to each unique. They are vital to each unique human endurance. Along these lines, it would be unjustifiable to repudiate the meaning of both intercourses. Whenever folks far and wide the meaning of women, it changed into executed both on account of a couple of private leisure activities or the extraordinary importance which changed into given to Eve's girl essentially to make the most her in a fresh out of the box new way (John, 1999). It is a reality that as acknowledgment raised concerning females' privileges with inside the West, present-day way of thinking and Modernity (produced using Project of and the Renaissance) moreover started there. However after the proclamation of Marx's and Capitalism, loads had been mixed intently from apex to base, even those enormous activities at monstrous had been not ready to intrude on the restrictions since women had been concerned. They (women) remained with inside the equivalent capacity. Rather in a deceptive manner, women had started out being given as an item and their sexual double-dealing started with inside the age which is by all accounts the fallout of Capitalism and Industrialization. They had been introduced great prominence and titles anyway really, this all different into executed on the charge in their casing and substantial excellence. One will should concede remorsefully that that will be continued even on this so exceptionally known as edified and cutting edge present-day worldwide of today (Pandey, 2003). Extraordinary US-drove and the Britain this acknowledgment movement of women's privileges and unfurl for the span of the West and later it changed into repeated even with inside the East. These activities of women's privileges acknowledgment aroused the women and thus, Feminism Movement started eventually (John, 1999). Woman's rights now presently not least complex builds the voice for fairness of ladies and men anyway also requests the hearty and tough subjugation among ladies and men. This movement expands its voice contrary to intercourse working, attempts at finger-pointing,

banjo, own circle of family members arranging, porn, lewd behaviour, and lesbianism. It distributions a female toward raising and raising a baby and needs with inside the accompanying expressions; “Control in their bodies, a stop to sexual typification and copyright” (Joan, 2018). Other than this there might be a notable trademark of feminism theory that is clear in brilliant expressions like; “The private is political” (Carol, 1970). It has changed into the eventual outcomes of this goliath and unprecedented movement that mixed the personalities of women at a major scale and that they started out lifting the inquiry in their fame and capacity in such social orders wherein that they’d no situation in decision making, wherein their will changed into aimless even ridiculous. They brought the inquiry up in their life regardless of the way that they had been the component and bundle of a copy. “The separation among female and male, the strength of male in everything of ways of life, and the abuse of women in each walk around ways of life have been the consuming the women’s activists” (Whitson, 2004). “This acknowledgment which changed into the eventual outcomes of Feminism is presently portrayed using various administrative work in expressions and writing” (Margaret, 1989). Women’s liberation is characterized another way overall around the global in worldwide areas like America, France, Russia, and England. There had been many books written in English in Pakistan like ‘Confidence and Feminism in Pakistan’ through “Afiya Shehribano Zia” and “Aisha Sarwari’s” Navigating Pakistani Feminism anyway concerning Urdu writing, society and gigantic progress there had been no outrageous attempts to perceive women’s liberation (Avasthi & Srivastava, 2001). As a count of the real world, this movement focuses to stop orientation separation. It wants to indistinguishable ladies and men socially, strategically, and monetarily. Teacher Ateequallah, a women’s activist, carries into gentle the male-centric culture with the disposition of women of his current society. He describes how males are seen by the women as predominant in society around them with the resulting focus. “The female is a defenceless orientation and fragile, together alongside her partner” (Huda, 2012).

3. Research Questions

1- How have Pakistani writers presented the postcolonial feminist perspective in contemporary fiction?

3.1 Research Methodology and Theoretical Perspectives

The present study is based on a comparison and critical analysis of the text. The whole research study covers three basic perspectives. Firstly, it is about the colonial era. This age was followed by “Ahmad Ali”. During this period we have a great example “Twilight in Delhi”. The second and third Perspectives are linked to Post Colonial period. The second chapter circumscribes the decade of the 1960s, it examines the change that was brought due to the influence of Post-Colonial thought. In this period we have a good example “Murder of Aziz Khan”. The transition phase lasted for thirty years from the 1970s to the 1990s. This research covers the first ten years in which we have a good example of “Moth Smoke” by Mohsin Hamid which is also considered a classic piece. The following research is a comparison of Muslim women’s status in the Colonial and Post-Colonial periods. It is qualitative

research that focuses on the several changings that were brought in the status of Muslim women under the influence of Colonialism.

4. Analysis and Discussion

Literature is considered a world view of different societies. It is easy for the people to find traditions, civilization, religion, and economic values through literature. The movement of feminism was launched to secure women from different sorts of domestic clutches and to protect their several rights. Supporters of feminism mainly talk about gender equality. The question related to feminism is not new. Thousands of writers have discussed this question like Mohsin Hamid, Bapsi Sidhwa, Muhammad Hanif, and Sara Suleri. Pakistani literature is linked with British Imperialism and Colonialism. The colonial elements can be found in the works of Mohsin Hamid and Bapsi Sidhwa.

Pakistani English literature begins with a well-known work “Twilight in Delhi”. Later writers like Mohsin Hamid, Muneeza Shamsi, Hina Faisal Imam, and Zulfiqar Ghous took their inspiration from the works of Shahid Shuharwardi and Ahmed Ali. Feminism for Pakistani writers has always been an important topic of discussion for them. In the beginning, Pakistani women were under the control of the patriarchal society but with time the feminist writers have broken the boundaries of domestic clutches. Through the promotion of education, the role of women become modernized in society.

In Earlier works of Pakistani literature in English women were portrayed as tools to give satisfaction. They were oppressed by their male masters. “Feminism in Postcolonial era mainly addresses the effect of social oppression” (Singh, 1991). Writers like Bapsi Sidhwa, Talat Abbasi, Mohsin Hamid, Zulfiqar Ghose, and Mohammed Hanif are best noted for their depiction of female characters. “The main character Aaya in Ice Candy Man by Sidhwa also highlights the emotional, mental and physical world of women” (Sidhwa, 1989). To sum up, the theme of female consciousness is the most prominent in Pakistani literature in English written from the 50s to the present. The most important thing if the new century is that the male writers are more curious to highlight the issues of their opposite sex. Mohammad Hanif is considered one of the best writers in this context. He is best noted for his work “Our Lady of Alice Bhatti”.

Females and males are sure to be separated on the reason of the differentiation of positive substantial abilities among them and folks. Furthermore, this very qualification of substantial abilities gives the base on which each is put away in stand-out classifications. The reason for this division is there might be a recognized differentiation among their exhibitions if home or expert. There is a dynamic qualification among those on a passionate stage and each gets matters with unique feelings and feelings. The women’s liberation movement attacks generally won current moral and human advancement constructions and requirements to put a stop to these kinds of exploiters. It now presently not least complex necessities women to look out for their privileges even it expects folks to play their component in giving the due extent to the women. “Qazi Afzal Hussain” a Pakistani women’s activist composes of women’s liberation with the accompanying follows as: “Men and women each are

significant and fundamental for the development of the general public. Yet, it's miles the financial and social needs of the one-of-a-kind society which shape the shape of their dating. In numerous social orders, this dating among different sexes is at the prior stage and is given inclination" (Kanwal, 2015). Practically in every general public, this ascription is fixed. As indicated by those scholars women's liberation's principal obligation is to highlight this orientation separation using the stand-out friendly, political, and artistic texts. "In 1970 a little exhibition changed into ready in a studio that changed into related with women strengthening. In this event, an assortment of London women brought their voices up in resistance to the proceeded persecution upon them. They unsettled on financial and home persecution" (Avasthi & Srivastava, 2001). nineteenth century's essential women's activist "John Stuart Mill" who's thought about be the trailblazer of the western women's activist movement writes in his paper with the title "On the enslavement of the Women" that it's miles folks who're responsible for the current discouraging situation of women. By the year 1975, all styles of orientation segregation had been thought to be unlawful and had been taken up in the public eye or at home. Teacher "Ateequallah" makes sense of this case with the resulting phrases: "Through the change with inside the act, any sort of separation in regards to orientation changed into the idea to be unlawful and ill-conceived". This separation changed into being "Feminism in Pakistani English Literature: A Study in Post-Colonial Paradigm" practiced in areas; of the home stage and cultural stage. This new movement also went after people that had been representing a female to be an item since intercourse is stressed and the profession is concerned (Shamsie, 2017).

5. Findings

Pakistani fiction writers like "Talat Abbasi", "Qaisra Shahraz", "Mohsin Hamid", "Zulfikar Ghose" and "Bapsi Sidhwa" have made concerted efforts to carry to mild the Popularity of Pakistani women. Their women depiction are reflective of the behavioral and psychological modifications females go through to obtain the popularity of empowerment and emancipation. Women might also additionally go through however they were raised to emulate with male-dominated society, and the entire technique renders them greater a woman. Women gain maturity steadily in Pakistani fiction via way of means of rebelling against the elements which created such affliction. Faced with linguistic barriers and cultural constraints, the females of Pakistani fiction nevertheless have interaction in a steady war of turning into independence. Moreover, Pakistani fiction writers have now no longer focused on simply one thing of females' lives; alternatively, they've taken ladies from each phase of society and have proven precise problems and sufferings. In some instances, upper-elegance females are the position fashion but in different instances, they'll be afflicted by many psychological and social issues. Nonetheless, wealthy or otherwise, maximum nevertheless be afflicted by many political problems and Social taboos.

To focus on the struggles and the sufferings of females, those writers make their woman characters go through a hard set of occasions to train them inside the artwork of life. These instances make those females better, through better Knowledge of their duties to society and, additionally especially, their

responsibility to themselves. They examine the artwork of dwelling and for this reason free themselves from the useless regulations posed on them with the aid of using conventional systems of society. These Pakistani fiction writers have come to be an aid to manual different Pakistani feminist Movements, similar to that which has handed in criticism and Western fiction. Feminist voices had first emerged in Western fiction, which afterward paved the manner for the empowerment and emancipation of females in general.

Pakistan writers have tried to search out their individuals and build up their will, desires, and vision thru literature, cinema, and different innovative forms. But in Pakistan, their struggle has been thwarted time and again due to the fact the society has a specific paradigmatic shape approximately the position of ladies, and, maximum of the time, it isn't ready to pop out of its cocoons. Females are given precise roles: mostly as caregivers, and little or not as working women. "Women are put into stereotype framework even in the programs that are run to empower women" (Shamsie 2007). Feministic traits in Pakistani fiction are consequently tradition precise and need to be visible inside the context of Pakistani socio-political installation which has its taboos against females. The problems of freedom of desire in marriage, sporting of a Particular get dressed code, proper to get training and paintings, and taking over the Duties of home-making on my own are the way of life particular troubles of Girls in Pakistan. So, the illustration of ladies in Pakistani Fiction must be appraised almost about postcolonial feminism.

6. Conclusion

Before the colonial era, there was a conservative society. The people of this era were spending a peaceful life in which they followed their suitable perspectives. There were traditions, love, ethos, concord, and moralities amongst them. But after the Colonization of the British in India, the whole structure of Indian society was reshaped. They. Brought their theories, philosophies, and different idea about feminism. Ahmed Ali is considered the earlier writer who discussed women's standards in his writings. In "Twilight in Delhi" he displays the self-realization of female characters. During Colonization one can see the change in norms and social values. The writers of feminism discussed gender equality. The main character of Razia in "Murder of Aziz Khan" is regarded as the best classical example. The character of Razia represents the thinking of other women of her time. The main character of Mumtaz in *Moth Smoke* by Mohsin Hamid also portrays the elements of liberal feminism. According to Lord Macaulay, the purpose of this project was to make the people colonized. To accomplish this task feminism played a vital role. The presence of the Character of Mumtaz and other women like her was the endpoint or we may say that an ultimate goal they wanted to achieve. At the beginning of the New Century, this happened. They become successful in transforming our thoughts. Now women are working in schools, Banks, Offices, Colleges, Media channels, and universities. They don't feel the awkwardness in working with their opposite gender. Now we can see the role of women in different institutes like Banks, offices and colleges, etc. They feel no embarrassment in working with their opposite gender.

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