



**INVESTIGATING THE FORMS OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST GENDER IN PATRIARCHAL
SOCIETY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO A PARSI
NOVELIST BAPSI SIDHWA'S
NOVEL "THE PAKISTANI BRIDE"**

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Abstract:

Bapsi Sidhwa, born on August 11, 1938, is a Pakistani novelist belonging to Gujarati Parsi, writing in English and is residing in US. Sidhwa as a novelist informs about the abilities of women. She demonstrates the genuine occurrences of the social order and an aching truth. Her second novel "The Pakistani Bride" illustrates the distressing familiarities of an orphaned girl named Zaitoon before and after marriage in the male dominated culture. The novel also portrays the diverse troubles experienced by women in a patriarchal society. The difficulties are demonstrated through different women characters like Zaitoon, Carol and the mother of Saki, Hamido. The subject matter of false philosophy of marriage is also significant in the novel. The novel further illustrates that women have constantly been believed to be objects to please the sexual craving of men in married life. In this paper the authors will try to explain how Sidhwa tries to present the miserable conditions of women in a male dominating society.

Keywords: Domination, Female skills, Gender, Patriarchal Society, Traumatic experience.

INTRODUCTION:

Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *The Pakistani Bride*, compacts with the tyranny of women in the patriarchal Pakistani culture. The novel is build on a true story described to Sidhwa when she abides with her family at an army campaign in the distant provinces of the Karakoram Mountains. It sheds light on the ways that



how a female body is used. The Pakistani Bride has been a wistful and stunning novel characterizing the distressing practices of a girl named Zaitoon before and after her marriage in the male dominating culture in Kohistan, Pakistan. The account of the novel is based on the life story of Zaitoon who is an orphaned girl, nourished up by Qasim. The novel originates when disturbances of partition start and in this unrest Zaitoon's parents are assassinated by the throng. After the assassination of her parents, Zaitoon is embraced by Qasim who looks after Zaitoon like his own daughter. Later she has to marry with an ethnic man who collapses her married life.

WOMEN SUBJUGATION:

The novel topically contracts with the subjugation of women class, in perspective of psychological (behavioural) and sexual, by men in the conventional ethnological society. In the novel, there are three major women characters: Zaitoon, Carol and Saki's mother, Hamida, who characterize diverse features of the difficulties faced by women in a patricentric world. These diverse sorts of difficulties become hallmarks of distressing life of suppressed women. The liveliness of women become very shoddier if their families are ignorant and live in an ethnic society.

As for as the surrounding of the story of the novel is concerned, the story of the novel is build on a true story of an orphaned girl, recited to Sidhwa when she and her family inspected far-flung provinces of Karakoram Mountain. Amid this period, the colonel, engineers and doctors recited to Sidhwa about the dreadful tale of a girl who was taken away from the plains crossways the Indus by an by an old ethnic man to marry her to his nephew. Only one month after her marriage, her life became miserable in which she could not endure and prolong. Her husband used to thrash her harshly on the smallest excuse to demonstrate his manliness over her. As a consequence the marriage turned into torment. Ultimately, the position become too intolerable for her to reside with her husband any longer under one roof. She determined to runaway to flight the brutal familiarities of marriage.

After escaping from her home, she was chased and hunted by her husband along with his whole kin folk members. She was at last captured near the rope bridge and her husband did cut her throat and threw it into the Indus river. This story enamored Sidhwa and she wrote "The Pakistani Bride". She says that the girl's story obsessed her. The tale of the novel is totally based



on the story of the girl recited to Sidhwa by doctors and engineers in the isolated mountain of the Karakoram.

THE FEMALE INSIGHT AND SENSITIVITY:

There are three foremost personalities that characterize the female sensitivity on each and every page of the novel. The female personalities are Zaitoon, Carol and Hamida. They are the exclusives to the novel. They symbolize concerns of all phases of woman, such as troubles of a girl, daughter, wife and mother. Zaitoon demonstrates the dilemmas of a girl who has to chase her father and husband's orders. Saki's mother illustrates the mess of ethnic woman who has to live a disastrous life. Carol, an American woman, who marries a Pakistani engineer, illustrates that women have to endure under the decree of their husbands, whether they are trained or educated or not.

POSITIONS OF WOMEN IN PATRICENTRIC SOCIETY:

The tales of Zaitoon and Carol emphasize important matters of women's places in male dominated and conventional society which have been influenced and organized by men for a long time. The depiction of the coercion of women, which appears with the growth of the novel, is reinforced by abundant other images of aggression, tyranny and suppression of women. The villagers of tribal culture believe women to be an priceless product which is used as substance of marriages to be transferred from one man to another. The patriarchal vision of men is that women are not equivalent in contrast to men. Men have always been higher than women.

CONCLUSION:

The feminism of The Pakistani Bride is a feminism which aspires to smash the stillness regarding the repression of women in Pakistan. As the novel set out to notify and alarm the reader into action, the feminism has a spotlight on the depiction of the diverse techniques on which female bodies are tyrannized in the patriarchal society of the novel. Because the female body is something that is presumed to be concealed and not uttered about, showing mistreatment and inequality through the female body makes the significance doubly authoritative. The novel centers on inequality and aggression, aspires to infuriate the reader into taking accomplishment. The eyes of women appearing at the world are introduced as an stimulation to women of patricentric cultures to question customs, to increase their own knowledge of the world and to emphasize their intellectual supremacy.



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