

Feminine Concern, Indian Patriarchal Society and Human Relationship in Mahesh Dattani's Dance like a Man

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Abstract

The present paper aims to explore the dramatist and readers approach to major themes such as Feminist concern, Indian Patriarchal Society and Human Relationship. Every person is the product of his surroundings, the society in which he lives and grows, and shapes his mind and mould his personality according to this how a person in this society is affected by the way of life of that society which he is in living. With using above themes we can better show how this play is related to the people of today's age. Mahesh Dattani in his play addressed or depicted the issues of society not the very obvious ones but the deep seated prejudices and problems that the society is usually conditioned and his plays deals with gender identity, discrimination and communal tension the cultural and moral values are changing with course of time. Mahesh Dattani speaks about the Feminine concern, orthodox, Patriarchal society and Human Relationship through his drama.

Keywords: *feminine, patriarchal, prejudices, discrimination, culture, relationship*

Dattani's Dance Like a Man moves beyond his Gujarati influences to establish a view of the individual, and of the society with these feminist concern. By using the element of the current issues of the society Dattani depicted Ratna, as the victim of patriarchal social system. Dance like a Man presents the hardship and the deplorable condition of the women's who are segregated on basis of their work and their profession. It comprises the tender vigilant cosmos created by two generation respectively old and new.

Ratna comes across as dominating and ruthlessly ambitious woman in Mahesh Dattani's 'Dance Like A Man'. Dattani portrays her bravely to stand up to her against autocratic Father - in - Law, Amritlal Parekh in her youth and dominates her husband throughout the play. Dattani portrays her as new generation youth with greater courage to rebel against patriarchic tradition.

Dance Like a Man provides feminist perspective on the debate between old and new generation with the opinion of Ratna which she has her own life, to do better performance as well as the other women did, and this are

valuable. According to feminist thoughts, Dattani Portrays woman suffering under the oppression of patriarchy.

Feminisms key aim is to foreground that roles performed by women as daughter or Mother are not natural but social construction in which woman is 'trained to fit in' (Nayar 83) existential feminist such 'Simone De Beauvoir, suggest that no one is born a woman but grows up to be so owing to the social education they are exposed to but the dimension of this assumption have increased a great deal over the years. Feminist theory, therefore argues that gender is an ideology because it naturalized what are social 'Per formatives' and it proposes and rain forces the differences in social performances as natural preordained unalterable. Ratna's feminine role of being a beautiful mother questioned towards the end of play. Jairaj points out how her over ambition and profession as full time Bharatnatyam dancer led to untimely death of their son due to the over dose of opium after which gives up fulltime profession at this point in this play, we can see Ratan's this devotion or sacrifice as symbolize or the voice is consider as feminine concern. This thing related with the aspect of Feminist Concern and how Ratna get dominating attitude from patriarchal Society. Thus, many women in this world are struggling with the situation and this situation raised in many works of Arts that we called feminist writing.

Mahesh Dattani is now to all not only for his drama but also his concern with Indian theater. In the drama Dance Like a Man Dattani deals with universal theme patriarchy in the society. He deeply in thought and concerned about the discrimination in Indian society.

Mahesh Dattani in Dance Like a Man has ingeniously portrayed Indian culture and social issues of contemporary India. The theme of the play intertwined with relationship, career, cast, society, the plot revolves around Jairaj and Ratna and their daughter Lata and her fiancé viswas. Jairaj and Ratna are exposed. Amritlal Parekh who fails to understand their devotion toward dance. The Dramatist has shown the typical Indian patriarchal views toward dance through Amritlal Parekh who considered that Dance is made only for female. He

epitomizes that a man with self respect will never pursue a Dance as a profession particularly a man. Dattani has delineated the patriarchy based on gender faced by Indian woman and its consequences.

"A woman is man's world is considered progressive, but a man is a woman's world is considered Pathetic." (Dance Like A Man)

The above quote said by Amritlal to Jairaj to restrict him from dancing. This shows how this feels inferior in this society to perform Dance by a Man.

In Dance Like a Man Dattani has highlighted that Indian patriarchy is an inseparable element of Indian society. Males hold primary power and predominate in the domain of the family. They tend to hold the reins of authority over women, children and other member of the family. The patriarchy has been present in society since the onset of civilization and till today.

In Indian culture, Importance is given to the male the discrimination begins from childhood and sometime even before that there are instance of female feticide which is an example in itself to the attitude of Indian society. Dance is a man play that talks about how Indian society deals with women in general those who are differently able. The play reflects on the intricacies of patriarchal code where woman destined to be in peripheral position.

Dance Like A Man is remarkable for its quality of originality, set in Chennai in the 1989, the drama paints a vivid picture of life in the Indian society. Ratna's feminine role of being a beautiful mother questioned towards the end of play. Jairaj points out how her over ambition and profession as full time Bharatnatyam dancer led to untimely death of their son due to the over dose of opium after which gives up fulltime profession at this point in this play we can see Jairaj as symbolize or the voice of patriarchal society so this is the patriarchal concern in this play.

Mahesh Dattanis Dance Like A Man openly depicts face to face interaction of the people belonging to two different generation. One of the major themes of this of this of play is human relationship, that is tradition and youthful

rebellion. He uses split scenes, hidden rooms and many other innovations as the flashback technique to shows the changing time. Dattani plays here a universal appeal like the relationship man & woman. Amritlal is central character of the drama, who is father of Jairaj and the father in - law of Ratna. He is so patriarchal. Lata's Father plays the role of own father and Lata Fiancé becomes the young man. The relationship between husband and wife, who have contrary to all public impression of being happy and well-suited couple.

Then Ambition overtakes Ratna in order to prove herself as a dancer she 'destroys' Jairaj by undermining his self esteem. Jairaj feels that he is used as tool, as stage prop, as a choreographer to Ratnas dance item but seldom co-dancer, and for what Ratna responsible for his drunkenness because she has, under a deal with autocratic father deprived him of dancing. The same conflict underlies the father - son relationship in the play and it has brought out by Dattanis verbal ingenuity. That the reason why Jairaj hates his father. The impact of patriarchal authority in joint family and to the rest of the family has been highlighted here, such relations comes through each other's concern in the whole play, which make the plight in the drama Dance Like A Man and this is as the Microcosm of society lays down the unwritten rules.

In this concerned how the all relations are showing their unethical statics and feeling less towards each other. Thus in Indian society the relations are maintained on the basis of some purpose, that is the truth behind curtain that depicts in this play. This is how Dattani made a beautiful description of Indian society through the using both the points, like the feminine concern, patriarchal society and human relationship which we can find everywhere in the form of ambitious Ratna or Jairaj or Amritlal Parekh who denies or oppose to dance to a man in society.

Work Cited

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