

Suppression of gender and sexuality in the novel “A Thousand Splendid Suns” By Khaled Hosseini

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Abstract

The theme of gender and sexuality has become an important concept in literature. Both gender and sexuality are complex and multifaceted aspects of human experience that can vary across cultures and individuals. In the novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini sparked a significant conversation about gender and sexuality. In the bestselling novel that hunted the heart of the readers, Hosseini describes the relationship between mother and daughter. A particular female character has lived all over the pages of the book, which is based on the role of women in Afghan society. People with rugged clothes, begging their children for plenty of food. The novel sketches two women character that differs from each other's life.

Keywords

Gender, sexuality, multifaceted, experience, culture, individual, sparked, significant, bestselling, hunted, relationship, sketch

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In the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini delves deeply into the themes of gender and sexuality, particularly within the context of Afghan society. The novel depicts the character of Mariam from a young age. Hosseini has beautifully described the life of Mariam and Laila. When people make a mistake and they lose their respect, it is disrespectful in the eyes of society. Mariam young girl was called ‘harami’ by her mother, the word ‘harami’ is nothing but calling a person who made sins. Mankind will make sins but when it comes to a particular gender and sexuality, they were accused of being a sinner. There is a saying “When a man makes a mistake it affects only him, but if a woman makes a mistake, it affects the whole family.” here the rights of men and women do not seem to be the same.

Characters like Mariam and Laila face oppression, discrimination, and violence because of their gender. The societal norms dictate their roles as wives and mothers, limiting their autonomy and agency. The female gender has had problems growing up in a patriarchal society. People have no right to choose their partner. In this novel, Mariam was forced to get married when her mother passed away.

The partner, all the men has the dream that their partner should look beautiful and young, when it comes to the women, they should accept the fate of whether the man seems to be good or not. Mariam has married a shoemaker who is thrice her age, Khaled Hosseini has splendidly explained the reality of Afghan society. The psychology of hand some of man is not suppressing women.

The author has described the man as a breadwinner of the family. He is also a guy who can lead the family on his own. Hosseini displayed the loneliness of a widowed man. Mariam's forced marriage to Rasheed and later Laila's

marriage to him demonstrate how women are often treated as property, with little regard for their desires or well-being. The novel also explores the complexities of same-sex relationships, such as the bond between Mariam and Laila, which evolves from rivalry to a deep, supportive friendship.

Women and men are used to fulfilling the desires of people. Sacrificing thy life for the whole family. Mariam got married at a young age; she did not even know how to lead a family, but she managed to do so. On the other side of the novel Hosseini portrays the character of Lila, who has a great education, a perfect family, supporting parents and a lovable childhood friend. We can see the two different characters that have grabbed the attention of the readers. The relationship of the two characters has been described in a good manner.

The novel does not shy away from depicting the harsh realities of sexual violence and exploitation experienced by women in Afghanistan. Both Mariam and Laila endure physical and emotional abuse at the hands of Rasheed, highlighting the vulnerability of women in a society where their rights and safety are often disregarded. Despite the oppression they face, Mariam and Laila find strength in their bond and solidarity with each other. Their friendship becomes a source of resilience and empowerment as they navigate the challenges of their lives. Their ability to support and uplift each other reflects the importance of female solidarity in challenging patriarchal systems.

In the novel “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Atwood, she focuses on the oppression of gender, control, and the struggle for autonomy in a patriarchal society. women are stripped of their rights and treated as property of the state.

In “Sea of Poppies” the female character was abused by their family. Human trafficking arises in the novel. The people

were trading their fellow people for doing the work. Women and other genders are used for the desires of society, and transgender live in red light areas. These incidents happen only because of society changing themselves physically and mentally they face a lot of troubles in their life. People hardly study those days; they don't even know the value of education in India. In Afghanistan, the character Lila and her family have given importance to worldly education.

The shoemaker Rasheed, the forty-year-old man, judges that high-class women will never feel shy when a stranger touches their feet for knowing the size of their feet. He elaborates that the women are not following the culture. Rasheed asked his wife to cover her with a 'hijab', hijab means a piece of cloth that covers all over the body. Here is the question arises why do women cover themselves? From the religious perspective, man is asked to lower their gaze. “Tell the believing men to lower their gaze.” men should cover their soul with the help of a hijab, which means a piece of cloth.

There is a reason, why women should not get into marital relationships with more than one man, it's all about giving birth to a child. In the epic Mahabharata, the women got married to five men, because of fate. In the novel, A Thousand Splendid Suns Hosseini displays the double marriage that is prohibited for a particular religion.

References

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