

GENDER INEQUITY IN MAHESH DATTANI'S TARA: AN ACUTE STUDY

Author's Name: R. Vengatammal

Affiliation: MA Graduate, G. Venkataswamy Naidu College, Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu, India

E-Mail: intellectdollkeerthi@gmail.com

DOI No. – 08.2020-25662434

Abstract

The play Tara is an attempt to study the identity crisis of a girl child in the Indian society by analyzing moving story of the conjoined twins, Tara and Chandan. In this play Tara mother Bharti spoils the life of her own daughter and later she feels her guiltiness. Also the play partly touches the issues of gender discrimination. Through this play Dattani shows survival and the struggle of a girl in this male dominated society. The play is about gender based injustice and how the male given preference to the female in a family also it displays the issues are based on the class, community and moral values. Throughout the play that shows bitter truth of a child abuse that are happening in the Indian society.

Keywords: Gender, discrimination, child infanticide, guilt, marginalization and patriarchal

INTRODUCTION

Mahesh Dattani a director, dancer, writer and actor he is one of the best and foremost serious contemporary playwrights in English. His plays are Final solution, Dance Like a Man, On a Muggy Night in Mumbai, Tara, Thirty Days in September and The Big Fat City. He is the first playwright in English to be honored with the Sahitya Academy Award. His works deals with the contemporary social and political issues that are exist in the society. Through his plays he has tried to bring out the invisible issues of the society such as child abuse, sex, flight of transgender and social evils against women. The play shows the discrimination against girl child in the society.

Indian English drama has given voice to the unvoice section of our society. It is a medium to reflect the aspects of the life. Drama is considered to be the most effective and powerful genre in the literature. Here Dattani's play *Tara* deals with the discrimination of a girl child and how she feels the hurdles in the society.

GENDER INEQUITY

The play *Tara* it is not the story of the heroine but it is about every child who was born in Indian family whether in rural or urban areas. In ancient society every girl child born in Indian family will suffer from some kind of exploitation. But if it is boy the family doesn't make any problems towards the society. The author tries to reconstruct this separation of roles through the characters of Tara and Chandan. The division affects not only the female but also to the male. Bharati, mother spoils the life of Tara. Bharti's guilt drives her to insanity. And then when Tara learns the truth that she was discriminated by their mother. She was shocked and emotionally broken.

Tara a girl who wants to Twinkle under shine just like her name. This play is about two children who joined together at the hip. Out of them, one is a boy and other is a girl. They can be separated only surgically; this surgery means that death of one of the. Now their partiality starts. Tara mother Bharati requires the male child because by selecting the male child he shall protect the family in

future days. Now the situation becomes too worse. Because if a girl is physically handicapped, she will face many problems in future. Tara's parents are well educated. Father Patel who gives the importance to only the boy Chandan. He did not feel about his daughter's life.

Dan: How many things of this kind have actually survived through birth?

Dr. Thakkar: there are, I think seven recorder cases in medical literature, but.

Dan: And how many are still alive?

Dr. Thakkar: In all cases so for one twin has always died

Dan: Doctor Takkar what is your opinion on the Patel twins? Will they survive?

Dr. Thakkar. You see that is something even more remarkable about this case.

Chandan feels inferior due to physical deformity. However, a strong and sensitive girl faces all the discrimination against women poster girl is considered to be done on parents in financially and emotionally and socially that leads to the death of a girl. With education and exposure to knowledge, we tend to believe that the preference of the male child does not happen in the educated urban spaces and it is the thing of the past. The male child is always considered to be prominent even till date and Tara holds his true because of the separation of twins to prefer Chandan the son. The play also features how children are obvious to the gender discrimination and how they fall prey to their parent's decision. The children are pure at their heart and they left within the confusion and a perplexity as they are unable to understand their own motives and intentions.

The title *Tara* is symbolically a shooting star that is a temporary guest of a small fraction of time. The idea also brings to mind the concept of the binary system that it contains two stars that are gravitationally bound generally move around each other. When two stars have a relative interaction can have a big impact on their evolution.

The play explorer's female infanticide. The people in the modern age are very aware of women's importance, and still now we find some societies kill baby girls. Females have a problematic rule throughout their life. In some of the societies in India, girls and women are anticipated to hear men and it was perfect in this play through the character of Tara. The play is an effective way to show the dark side of women's is education and upliftment in the Indian society. Dattani beautifully shows the mental struggles in the minds of the girls' life's. The play *Tara* has success all over the India and it is one of the best plays of the author.

The play *Tara* is an attempt to study the identity extremity of a girl child in the Indian society by analyzing moving story conjoined twins. In this play *Tara* mama Bharti spoils the life of her own daughter and latterly she feels her guiltlessness. Also, the play incompletely touches the issues of gender demarcation. Through this play Dattani shows survival and the struggle of women in this man dominated society.

The play is about gender grounded injustice and how the manly given preference to the womanish in a family also display issues that are grounded on the class, community and moral values. Throughout the play that shows bitter variety of a child abuse that are passing in the Indian society.



WORKS CITED

- “TWINKLE TARA”. A drama in two acts by Chandan Patel. Copyright, Chandan Patel,93, Fishpond’s Road, Tooting, London SW177LJ.
- Dattani, Mahesh “Tara”. Collected Plays. New Delhi: Penguin Books India (p) Ltd, 2000.
- Chatterji, Subhash. The (Un) twinkling star, responding to Dattani’s “Tara” The Common Wealth Review vol.13 NO 260-92
- Singh, R.A, Critical Studies on Common Wealth Literature, Jaipur:book endive,2003.