



# Feminist concern in Joe Baby's *The Great Indian Kitchen*: A Feminist Reading

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## Abstract

Though 21<sup>st</sup> century rational thinking has broken down the traditional views and created profound impact in all walks of life, in way special way Literature and its writing culture, but still *freedom* for women is dream for all women folklore across the world. For ages activists fought for gender issues, women's sexual liberation, job opportunities for women, violence against women, but still patriarchy roles and influences wrongly. Hence feminism explores the position that societies prioritize the male, and how women are treated unjustly within those societies. Among all great such writers who worked and have been fighting for women's freedom Jeo Baby is one such significant writer who persistently tries to bridge the gaps between women and society. He was born in a Christian family in Thalanad near Pala. During his student days, he directed the short film *Secret Minds* which discussed homo-sexual relationships, which became controversial hence Jeo Baby and his friends were expelled from the college. But then still he explores how women are treated badly and get imprisoned in the four walls (*kitchen*) after marriage in his films and short stories. As a feminist writer he flamboyantly projects how women feel that kitchen clips their wings and hardships through *The Great Indian Kitchen*. Hence this research articles tries to cull out the truth of how a woman is stripped of her rights as a human being in this film.

**Key Words-** Feminism, Freedom, Society Violence and Dream.

Feminism is a range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies that aim to define and establish equality of the sexes. These movements campaigned and continue to campaign for women's right to vote, hold public office work, earn equal pay, get their own properties, get an education, and have equal rights. Feminists also worked for the protection of girls and women from rape and sexual harassment. Some great scholars played a major role in the social ranges in women's rights. Many authors emerged to write about women, which helps the readers about women and their difficulties. The feminist theory emerged from feminist movements, aims to understand the nature of gender inequality; feminist theorists have developed theories in a variety of disciplines to respond to issues concerning gender.

In 1837, a utopian socialist Charles Fourier and French philosopher coined the word "féminisme". The words "féminisme" and "féministe" first appeared in France and the Netherlands in 1872. Depending on the historical moment, culture, and country, feminists around the world have had different goals. The feminist movement falls into four waves. The first comprised women's suffrage movements, which promotes rights to vote. The second wave, the women's liberation movement, campaigned for legal and social equality for women. A third wave was identified, characterized by a focus on individuality and diversity. The fourth wave, used social media to combat sexual harassment, violence against women and rape culture, it is best known for the Me Too movement. Many feminist movements and ideologies have developed over the years. Traditionally feminism is often divided into three main traditions usually called liberal, radical and socialist feminism.

At first, the discrimination starts at home. A woman's struggle in the kitchen is the story of almost all women in India, 'men think women are the machine for making tea and washing clothes and rising kids. This is continuing from generation to generation even though we fight and protest for gender equality it is still growing. Cooking is not just cooking; it involves a lot of work like chopping, washing, grinding, and garnishing and takes up a lot of time. It can be simplified but we don't do it. And that is because a woman is told that her husband and the family are everything, that she exists just to make them happy.

Dad, here is your tea.

i haven't brushed, dear

Then brush first,

I will heat up again

I haven't got my brush.

The toothbrush....

Even when the English men ruled us women didn't work like this, but here the father of her husband had no time to take his toothbrush because he needs the help of women in her family. It

perfectly shows that women are subservient to men from generation to generation. Women are living in the jail created by men. Men are the decision-maker, women are workers and they don't even get paid for it. She works the whole day and wants to get ready to spend the night with her husband. Whatever may happen the night should be spent with her husband, and she returns to work in the kitchen for the next day.

The life of women has been scheduled. She was made to feel inferior and untouchable because she was menstruating, during that time, she was not even permitted to enter the kitchen and drink water and not allowed to use vesicles from the kitchen. On even days, she was treated with passive contempt, including but not limited to threats of violence and righteous condemnation.

Dear..shall I apply for a job..?

What job ..? Dance teacher.

Dance..? Nice...

That won't suit us, dear.

She is never allowed to open her mind to desire. She is also not allowed to think about what she wants to do. In a way the men in her family want to kill her mind, so she doesn't crave freedom or equality. Some women enable this oppression without asking questions. They perform their womanly duties, day and night.

It hurts when we do it...

If there's some foreplay.

I will be...

So you know everything about it?

What..? Foreplay...

Even though he is a teacher he never learned progressive thoughts. Why should men only know these concepts, why shouldn't women ? .. here this shows the discrimination among women. Whatever happens, women should be under the control of men. Even in this matter they don't have their own desire.

Finally, she burst out from all the tolerance that she faced in the name of culture and tradition, when she walks away from her home she saw women were protesting against the judgment of woman's allowance to Sabari mala temple, we can understand that women also have equal responsibility for the patriarchal society, since when it comes to culture and tradition the women in the family intended to pass the same to next generation but in today's world every woman needs to be freedom. Even our mother, sister, and wife should burst out and be free. Retire them from the kitchen, not to enjoy, to break the stereotype and mythological society, and to raise their voice to progressive thoughts.

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