

Socialization shapes the Gender role: A Study on Vijay Tendulkar's

Balaji L.R¹ Dr. M. John Suganya²

²Department of English

^{1*2} PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore.

[1*balajilr8599@gmail.com](mailto:balajilr8599@gmail.com)

[2suganyajohn@gmail.com](mailto:suganyajohn@gmail.com) +91 9994924381

Abstract

Silence! The court is in session by Vijay Tendulkar is a play that mainly concentrates on prosecuting a woman character called LeelaBenare. The male crowd present there finds pleasure by accusing a woman's personal life. The play was written in Marathi language as Shanatata! Court ChaluAahe! And it was performed in 1967 portraying the social follies among the gender of the people in the society. The play concerns the mock trial representing the individuality of the characters being socialized with other people. Socialization plays a vital role in deciding or shaping one's character. This paper mainly focuses on the individuality or the character in gender of the people being socialized.

Keywords: *Prosecution, socialization, individuality, gender role*

In the play *Silence! The Court is in session*, the male crowd were not ready to accept an independent woman like LeelaBenare. They try to shame her by accusing Infanticide through a mock trial. Society has certain rules for the freedom of speech for men and women separately and it is obvious through this play. The minor characters like Samanth, Rokde, Ponkshe were given rights to throw negative light towards Benare in mock trial but Benare being a strong character who is independent in nature was not left to speak.

The actions of the characters present in the court clearly symbolize the disrespectful patriarchy. In between the mock trials they ask for cigarettes, paan and so on. Even Mr. Kashikar being a judge leaves out for some work and returns which is out of court rules. Mrs. Kashikar being a member of the crowd present in the court was also not allowed to speak out her opinion and she was always made to shut her mouth by her husband Mr. Kashikar, whenever she speaks.

Benare had been isolated by the entire crowd and she becomes the target of the crew members with the false assassination of infanticide. Being an independent woman on those days is seriously a matter of discussion

among the people in the society. That to a working woman who lives an independent life like Benare faces all kinds of accusations.

There is an obvious difference between the two female characters present in the play. Benare is set as an independent woman with all her life living on her own and she is also the one with a modernized thought and behaviour. The male crowd present feels offended at times. But the other character named Mrs. Kashikar who has lost her own identity even in her name is always verbally abused by her husband Mr. Kashikar and she has always been a supporting system from beginning to the end. She is not independent like Leela Benare and also her individuality is not shown. And particularly for this reason even Mrs. Kashikar also targets Benare along with the male crowd.

The behavior of a person being individual is totally different from that of the particular person as a member in a group or while socially mingled in a group or while socially mingled with other people. A strong character may be projected as a weaker one for being alone but a weak character when joins a crew of same characterized people, he is portrayed to be a stronger person in the society and it is clearly shown in the play. Benare being strong and independent could not survive the male crowd socially but the minor characters like Samanth, Ponshe, BaluRokde and other such characters being together dominates and targets Benare.

The play gives on further with a great theme of carpe diem, be it a male or female enjoys the pleasures of the moment of present without having concern of the impact that it has for the future. At the beginning Benare just plays through words with the male crowd and next they start accusing her for some false reasons and it just brings out the significant less talks among the people present in the mock trail which is common in present day society. Most of the talks become worthless when people join in as a society, one is not ready to accept other's point of view in general and there it starts a problem of patriarchy.

It is also clearly shown that when Benare exposed her modernized behavior being a woman. Her personal things are brought into light by the male crowd which is actually untrue the personal feelings are imposed to light easily when they are into the societal background. The innocent may even get enough courage to speak anything about the unknown.

The character assassination is easily done within a group of people without exactly understanding the proper reason or truth behind it. The play also brings out that in a society with number of people brings

involved in it, the justice is always used as an instrument of suppression were to open out the truth from someone, the particular person is put to suppression or being assassinated by many and finally the victim is made to speak out something in fear and the society doesn't care if it is true or not the true wickedness is brought out of people when one is being socialized with the other. Being socialized sometimes influences us to be immoral that this is set to be as a trend now a class. Once individuality is influenced by others in both right and incorrect ways and the particular becomes unaware of it and he/she is forced to certain groups to form the society likewise the society and being socialized plays a vital role in one's life, we are aware of it or not. In the play, character Samanth is one such character and he doesn't have any idea about Benare but was forced by the crowd to speak something about it and to build up false stories about Benare's personal matters which is actually untrue and the people as a society finds pleasure in that false assassination. The theme of gender discrimination is even brought out when being socialized. As a public view it any issue is being judged irrespectively of the matter being discussed the character of the particular is also brought under the word of gender as the society is still having certain rules in the freedom of speech separately for male and female apart from all that if the particular especially the female gets out if she is put to light with all such discrimination suppression and accusation. This state of societal behavior is clearly brought out in this play.

The class of the people is also judged by the society apart from gender. The opinions of some people are heard and some are unheard and it is based on the class and societal background. A high class has all his/her own rights to speak than a middle or low class, if a group has many members in it.

The play provides a clear societal knowledge of how justice is given by being an injustice. This state clearly makes us understand the people as a society wants to prove their patriarchy supremacy but Benare wants to stand for her progressive and educated life sometimes the difficulties or the struggle of someone is made as a matter of pleasure and the people as society are unaware of how it creates a stressful impact on the particular person. Being independent or living life of one's own is always a personal thing. But proving a gender role or showing patriarchy over it is meaningful like Kashikar, Sukhatme, Punkshe, Rokde and others are great examples of it.

Be it a male or female, socialization plays a major role in shaping out one's character and the people around the particular individual has got a significant role in his/her own life so if it is under morality or an immoral thing is the important factor that one should be aware of.

REFERENCES

Ganmote, Dipak P. "Vijay Tendulkar's *Silence! The Court is in Session:*

Formulation of Mental, Social & Physical Contexts through Proverbs." *Language in India*, Vol. No. 18, Nov 2018.

Rudra, Sadhan. "*Silence! The Court is in Session - A Re Reading of the Text from the Theory*

Perspective." *International Journal of English Language, Literature and Translation Studies*, Vol. No. 3, Issue 3, July-Sept. 2016.

"Shantata! Court ChaluAahe." https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shantata!Court_Chalu_Aahe Accessed 30 Oct 2021.

Tendulkar, Vijay. *Silence! The Court is in Session*. Oxford University Press New Delhi 2017.

