



# Stringent laws for women fabricated by society in Elfriede Jelinek's "Women as lovers"

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## ABSTRACT

The mindset of people is that women are good for nothing because our society has a set of rules and regulation to follow separately for men and women. Later women started to accept her fate because we live in a society where women are blamed if they get raped. There are pioneers and many women who have excelled in various fields. Others should take them as their role models and achieve things beyond comparison such women must be courageous and ready to face rebukes. Women's relatives, neighbours and friends should boost her confidence in every circumstances. The society is made up of many fools who wait for a chance to overpower such women, but such women should take precautions to avoid such instances and act wisely even if they face such situations. Hence media should educate the people and make them to understand about the women strength in our nation.

**Keywords:** society pressure, Sexual desire, Male domination, anti-romance, socially unequal, underdeveloped, gender inequality etc

Generally, the mindset of people is that women are good for nothing because our society has a set of rules and regulation to follow separately for men and women. where If a girl turns 25 she should get married immediately by throwing her own ambition. if she reaches between 25-30 is the peak age to get married as soon as possible. Later she will not get a suitable groom as a partner. In Women as lover, Brigitte follows the norms of society in order to get a life. She has only her youth in her hand apart from that have nothing in hand so she gives much importance to her outer appearance to marry as soon. we see the concept of beauty has being applied to the figure of women in the society due to fear.

*Brigitte has breasts, thighs, legs, hips and a snatch. others have that too, sometimes even of a better quality. Brigitte has youth... (WL 10)*

If she decides to live life on her own terms in the path of her dreams People don't pay heed to her dreams because women should not have her own dreams.. Paula is the second protagonist of the novel, she understands the marriage life by comparing her two sisters where loses their lives and their identity and women would become the property of a man because every men and women are tied up with the rules of society.

*until now country life has held her in check-just like her sisters erika and rene, who are married. one can already write both off, it is as if they were not in the world at all. it's different with paula, she is the youngest and still properly in the world.(WL 12)*

A girl must never get tired after working whole day in a company(of course they are still being paid less than men) & must cook food for entire family,help children with their home-work,make his husband happy in bed; get up early next morning; cook break fast repeatedly. After all she is born to do that as like a robot who never gets tired. Later women started to accept her fate because We live in a society where women are blamed if they get raped. In the beginning of the novel, paula would not follow the rules of society norms later she starts to scare the society where she can not live with out a man so she chooses a way to reach her goal is to marry a proper man who helps her career and her happy living life with good job so she decided to marry and ready to sustain a family. However, she understood about marrying a man is a natural process. women can choose a job either sales girl or a housewife so if she chooses to be a housewife then she will be imprisoned from today to till she marries and finds her destiny. on the other hand, if she chooses to be a sales assistant, atleast she could have a life for two or more years till she finds her destiny.

*sometimes a daughter does not want to die as quickly as she should, but prefers to remain a sales assistant for one or two years and live! in rare cases she would even like to become sales assistant in the country town, where there are other professions such as preist, teacher, factory workers, plumber, joiner, locksmith, but also watchmaker, baker, butcher! and pork butcher! and many more. many more promises of life in a more beautiful future.(WL 14)*

Human is a social creature and we must learn most of the things from our society.Since centuries, we have have been living in a male dominating society. In society where females were treated like a reproduction machine,maid or a slave. We could see the fraustrtion of women by the societal pressure which makes paula's mother to take some bad decision because women are fed up with the post of slave.

*momma says, that she tell dada and gerald. she at most went to the cinema three times in her life, and she did not like it and it did not interest her, and she was glad when she was home again. i haven't been to Italy at all, never, and the tv is much more interesting, one sees the whole time. when my dada was still alive, i slaved for him, and then i went on slaving for your dada and for gerald, and now that you're old enough to slave with me, you suddenly don't want to anymore but learn the clean trade of dressmaking instead. why and for what have i slaved all my life, if not for dada and gerald, and now when you could at last slave with me, you don'twant to. you can put it out of your head! before dada and gerald put it out of your head (WL 18)*

I don't understand what the meaning of education is? I believe education is meant to develop our personality, mindset & living standard. Even some elderly females are fail to understand the feelings of other females who go through such issues in their lives. The most important reason why women are neglected and have less of a right (rather than no right) to live life on their own terms is **our cultural history**. women are being involved in taking care of the household, men played a major role in the family like expanding boundaries, making technological progress, forming political coalitions and waging wars. Men dominated these areas naturally. Most of the

personalities in various field such as science, literature, politics, sports etc. are men and not women. Even in institutions like marriage, women are considered to be the inferior part and had to be given in marriage along with some dowry. If that wasn't enough, a woman's existence was considered futile without her husband and she was forced to burn herself along with the pyre of her husband. Brigitte uses her baby as the tool to marry Heinz because she has no way to live in the society with goodwill.

*in addition brigitte has the capacity to bear children, which not everyone has. she hopes to be allowed to bear such a child soon. since brigitte has known heinz, she feels an urge, to bear a child. if that's not a feeling, what an earth is a feeling? brigitte's heart has spoken, it said heinz. brigitte follows this heart wherever it leads, that is to heinz.(WL 128)*

Secondly, our society are exposed for statements and comments that motivate the idea of gender seperation. Brigitte view of justify herself about her future. she can sacrifice her for the society comfort and she supports the future goal of her loved one so she used her fertility to bring a child to this world in order to get security is seen equal in the society.

*heinz hopes, that what she does with brigitte will have no consequences. when heinz thinks about brigitte, then not about her herself, but about the possible consequences. heinz weighs up b. against her consequences. brigitte hopes, that what she does with heinz will have consequences, MUST have consequences.there must be a little child! a horrible, white, clinging grub of an infant. for heinz it will be simply and succinctly: our child! it will embody the permanent bond, which b. is looking for.(WL 53)*

Thirdly, media is almost single-handed responsible for decreasing the respect for women through Movies, TV serials and even commercials portray several women as just sexual objects. I recently come across several posts in facebook that show us what Indian media project about women in their articles or news. women have an inferior social status as compared to men. They are considered as a burden in their families When they are widowed or divorced, they are considered by the society as incapable of independence in running the household. In most cases, the women are non-working, are considered as an extra burden by their families to support. The situation is very bad in rural areas about women's social status. Heinz satisfies his sexual desire whenever he needs. Brigitte tries to talk with him event to convey that she feels hungry but she does not want to stop the emotions of Heinz because if he is not satisfied which effects the marriage of Brigitte because she needs to live in the society.

*heinz is happy at last to have found a person to rut. hardly has heinz set eyes on the person Brigitte, than he's unbuttoning himself and going into the starting position. while Brigitte is still explaining to him, that she loves him and at the same time feels something like respect for his professional success, while Brigitte is still letting her thoughts wander from love and respect to wedding and house renovation, before she even has time to watch out, she already has heinz the rutter clinging to her body like a leech.(WL 62)*

Women have no time to think about her career whereas a man can decide on his late 30's that he want to get married, have kids as much as he wants, after having built a career, settled down, became stable in a considerable measure. On the other hand, A woman who want to have kids must prepare her thoughts about marrying as young as she can. Through the character of Paula, Jelinek gives the message to all women to empower themselves and Jelinek wants to the women should not give up the feminist struggle. Women may get the various problems so that she should not choose the prompt decision in their life. Paula is the best example of those women in 1970s that

resurfaced the feminist movement in western society. The society forces the women you should be either good housewife or good mother. Brigitte and Paula have no opportunity to make a choice. But both women try to become a perfect woman. Brigitte chose the way of fulfill the dreams of her husband desires, it is the only way she would finds to get an identity. Brigitte knows very well that marriage is the only way for the lower class women to competitive with one another to come certain level in the society. So she works hard in front of the Heinz family. she tries to prove them she is worthy to enter in to their family. she wants to show that she is better than susi(upper class woman).

*brigitte is helping around the house, which is the only way she can ingratiate herself, which means she enthusiastically cleans the lavatory bowl with the shit brush. five minutes ago she had said she would be happy to do that. Now she's not doing it so happily any more. she feels quite sick from all the shit which accumulates in the course of a week in a three person household. heinz, even if he doesn't get a secretary to be his wife, who is a real women, that is knows how to handle the brush and its repulsive attendant features properly.(WL 10-11)*

I am totally against those who underestimate a women's potential. women must care her family whereas men for work which is totally wrong. surprisingly, paula has her voice to raise to her mother to explain about her ambitions and emotions.but she fails in her ambition in the end but she struggles for to achieve her ambition. In the beginning of the novel, we find paula is the strong independent woman but the society forces her for marriage so she slowly change her ambition to buying house as well to have a family.

*however paula says, but mother i don't want to, i want to learn dressmaking. and when i've finished learning to be a dressmaker, i want to have something of my life, drive to italy and go to the cinema with the money i've earned myself, and after i've had something of life, i want to drive to italy once more, for the last time and, with the money i've earned, go to the cinema once again, for the very last times.(WL 17)*

We always hear about women empowerment. We usually say that women and men must be treated equally but do we really mean that? I think NO and the reason is simple. Sharing women empowerment posts or spreading news about a women's achievement is not enough because there are still many people who underestimate women because of tradition,culture,personal belief,social beliefs or to show themselves strong by assuming women as weak.

In India,this is called of feminism but people are spreading news or teaching stories is not enough to make people for realize the actual value and the potential of women. Lecturing them is a way like going old school which would be totally unfit if we talk about today's challenges. Firstly,We must tell them frankly about what they are capable of if treated equally. Secondly,we must tell them in a friendly manner with real life situations. Finallywe must teach them the value to assume the opposite like if women were dominating and men were considered weak or undervalued.

In reality, Brigitte doesnot want to have baby because she really hates baby which makes her sick. she hides her true thoughts because for society. she neglects such desires but if she would not desire for baby then Heinz parents may exclude her from the list so she acts;

*in reality brigitte is repelled by infants. in reality she would love to snap the delicatelittle fingers, and stud the helpless little toes with bamboo splinters and stuff a dirty rag into the gob of the newly arrived number one instead of the beloved pacifier, so that for once there really would be something to scream about. (WL 38)*

The society is the main reason for all especially in India because women are not allowed freely to express their views and wishes even if large quota or merit are reserved for women. From the birth they are frowned at. That's why female infanticide was very common. Once a girl child is born only the burdens come into the mind of parents and they either kill the baby or throw it into dustbins. Brigitte known's well that nobody will marry a woman who is from illegitimate daughter where she is from middle class so she has to use this chance to marry Heinz so she begs him to marry her for the society rules.

*but brigitte also knows, that there is no going up in the world of her, there is only heinz or something worse than heinz or sewing brassieres until the end of her life. sewing brassieres without heinz means the end of her life right now. it is left completely to chance, whether Brigitte lives, with heinz, or escapes life and goes to waste. there are no rules for that. fate decides brigitte's fate.(WL 6)*

Paula is the character who is a dreamer, self-motivated, independent, self-learner as well as a very passionate girl but such a lady fell in the society rules for her family situation but finally ends with the self-sacrificing and home-maker to please people around her. Her personality has been broken and diminished by society and left alone. Women suffers in society as well as lack of love and affection what she expects in the family so she ends up alone with her dreams shattered, became one among the puppets of society. Brigitte is the portrayal of women of the 1950s and Paula is the woman who stands for the character in the 1970s. In short, women are living in the society where the society is designed by men for men's pleasure. These rules were accepted by women they start to search in their life to have a husband, children along with the house. Jelinek depicts the inner thought feelings by the female character in the novel.

The media exclusively should educate the people about the issues and make them to understand about it. There are pioneers and many women who have excelled in various fields. Others should take them as their role models and achieve things beyond comparison. Now looking into the second part of the question, such women must be courageous and ready to face rebukes. The relatives, neighbours and friends should motivate her confidence. The society is made up of many fools who wait for a chance to overpower such women, but such women should take precautions to avoid such instances and act wisely even if they face such situations.

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