

Endemic Misogyny and Institutional Oppression in *Kim Jiyoung, Born, 1982*

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Abstract

This article aims at the Systematic Mistreatment of people within a social identity group and mistrusting women, manifested in various forms such as abuse. *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*, is the debut novel of the South Korean Novelist Cho Nam-Joo. Protagonist of the novel is a very common woman in Korea but this novel holds enormous power and narrates the sensitive phase of a woman's life quite meaningfully. Kim Jiyoung's story is told in a flat monotone, indicative of the banality of the endemic evil of gender discrimination, supporting male sibling's career to their own detriment, women earning less than men in the same position, facing constant sexism, misogyny, social discrimination and gender disparity.

Key words: *Gender discrimination, South Korean patriarchy, Mistreatment, Equality.*

Introduction

Cho Nam-Joo is a famous television scriptwriter. In the writing of *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*, she drew partly on her own experience as a woman who quit her job to stay at home after giving birth to a child. *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* is a strange novel. Its strangeness however comes from the nature of the story it has to tell, that of sexism and misogyny so unspectacular that we sometimes forget to question them. *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*, tells a story of a highly educated young woman who has a nervous breakdown when trapped in her role of stay at home. She is finally cured when she starts writing and publishing her autobiographies. Kim Jiyoung's story is narrated by a Psychiatrist based on her and her husband's account of her life. The book then backtracks to Jiyoung's childhood. From childhood to her marriage, throughout her adolescence, college years, marriage to her present life she faces constant sexism, misogyny, social

discrimination and gender disparity. Cho Nam-Joo used real statistics supported by references and footnotes throughout, hence never leaving the truth about dire situation of gender Bias and Chauvinism.

Women Gender Discriminations

Women had been suffering from gender discrimination for a long time. These discriminations often cause certain mental illness to some people. *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* has been translated from Korean to English. In this novel, Kim Jiyoung suffered from mental illness, due to the discrimination she experienced as wife and daughter as a South Korean woman in her society. This novel begins with the main Character Kim Jiyoung having some mental illness. The novel opens up to Kim Jiyoung who wakes up acting different to her husband. Kim Jiyoung's husband encounters her as her mother, because she was acting in the same way as her mother does. Her Psychiatrist later concludes that, Jiyoung became different people from time to time, some of them were living, others were dead, all of the women she know.

Kim Jiyoung descent to madness wasn't caused by a single incident. It was caused by small but many experiences of Toxicity. She and her sister only existed because their parents kept having children until a male child. After their brother was born, they were treated like a failed draft. The son gets the best of everything. Even the employment for women was very small compared to men graduates. The company's failure was also because they only recommended male graduates. In 2014, Kim Jiyoung resigned due to marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and to nurture her child. Gender Discrimination starting from childhood till employment played a vital role in Kim Jiyoung's life.

Victimized By a Misogynistic Society

From the young age, Kim Jiyoung has suffered through the effects of Korean's misogynistic society. Her childhood was challenging. Jiyoung's own grandmother constantly belittled her importance in the family I comparison to her younger brother. Her grandmother overtly prioritized her grandson than that of her and her sister. Her Grandson and his things were valuable and to be cherished; she wasn't going to let just anybody touch them, and Jiyoung ranked below this anybody.

On the other hand, a woman who bears a boy during her pregnancy was so proud before her parents-in-laws in bearing a boy inside her womb. In Korea, when a son is born, he will always be prioritized in the family. He will be fed with healthy foods. Meanwhile, daughters will be treated as strangers in their own family. Since, Kim Jiyoung's father and brother are men they indeed receive a great deal of social benefits their entire life and did not once think of the oppression obtained by woman around their life although the women oppressed are close to them. When Jiyoung attended middle school, the school showed discrimination even in students uniform, the men should follow certain rules and even in her work place, men were given importance compared to woman.

Double Burden on Women

Kim Jiyoung's mother, successfully became a mother who dared to adopt a way of raising children a little differently from most of the other parents in South Korea, who always give boys more privilege. Kim Jiyoung's mother did not limit her daughters instead encouraged her children with their choices, so that Kim Jiyoung and her sister grew strong and supported her younger brother. Kim Jiyoung's mother gave significant contribution to the family compared to Kim Jiyoung's father. She needed to work and at the same time required to do the entire domestic works. If Kim Jiyoung's mother did not work, Kim Jiyoung's family would have suffered. Perhaps, Kim Jiyoung and her sister Kim-Eu-young would work as a blue-collar worker in a factory and decided not to pursue their education. Kim Jiyoung also experienced double burden as a woman in her family. Kim Jiyoung took care of all the domestic works.

Everyone recognizes that technology continues to evolve and physical energy needs are reduced. Another case with housework, Kim felt that people still have a dualistic view of the role of housewives. Sometimes some say being a housewife means having a much time to be relaxed at home, On the other hand sometimes there are those who consider that it is the most important job in the world and someone has to pay it. If everyone thinks that it is not only the work which only woman should do, it won't be a burden on woman.

Conclusion

The story experienced by Kim Jiyoung represents what most women experienced, especially in the Asian region which still maintains a Patriarchal culture. This is very inversely proportional to those conveyed through Korean drama and movies which until now influenced all people in the world. This patriarchal condition will continue to be repeated in every generation if no one starts from our side to respect the role of women and promote gender equality. What Kim Jiyoung and other women need is respect and trust. Women have the same rights as men. It is not complicated for society if women wants to be recognized, reliable, loved and valued. As long as patriarchal culture is maintained, the stigma about women and men persists. Women will remain the men's subordinate.

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