

# INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM OF WOMEN IN “A ROOM OF ONE’S OWN” BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

Kaladevi. P. S

2<sup>nd</sup>B.Ed Special Education (Visual Impairment) and Special English,

Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women,

Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India.

## *Abstract*

In the novel “A room of one’s own” by Virginia Woolf is an autobiographic novel, in this novel the narrator extraordinary and beautifully portrayed very well about the life of women. And she clearly explains that as women, we must have a room and money of her own. If we have a room we can had a creative thinking and we need money for write poetry or prose fiction. In today’s world money is need for everyone to lead a life. People are going behind the money to obtaining their basic needs, because money is a primary element to live a healthy life. She motivates others to write not only the fiction but all kinds of books. As a woman we must lead our life by our own earnings, not by others, we should stand on our own legs. Women have always been poor, not only in those but now-a-days also it was happening in and around the world.

**Key words:** *Feminism, Intellectual freedom of women, Impact on women independence, women and fiction.*

## *About the Author*

Adeline Virginia Woolf 25<sup>th</sup> January 1882-28<sup>th</sup> March 1941. She was an English writer; consider one of the more important modernist 20<sup>th</sup> century authors and also a pioneer into the use of stream of consciousness as narrative devices. Woolf was born into an influent household south Kensington, London, and the seventh child in a blended family of eight which included the modernist painter Vanessa Bell.

Virginia Woolf submitted her first article in 1890, to a competition in Tit-Bits. Although it was rejected, this shipboard romance by the 8 year-old would presage her first novel 25 years later, as would contribution to the Hyde Park News, such as the model letter “ to show young people the right way to express what is in their hearts,” a subtle commentary on her mother’s legendary matchmaking.

## *Introduction*

The protagonist of the novel is Mary Beton; she is the fictional narrator of the novel. Who has given a lecture on the topic of women and fiction at fictional Oxford University. After lecture over she had crossed the lawn, at that time she heard about the song which is came from the chapel. She tries to enter in to it but she was denied by the librarian. After the lecture gets over she came back to her room where she stayed. The narrator talked with her friend Mary Seton. She said that men’s college where constructed by highly funds. For the last five decades, women had right’s to keep the money what they have earned. Here seton’s mother says that

“Whatever she earns it is not a matter but she is so greatly to leave it to her husband.” She thinks of her mother and says that nothing is there to leave for us. She enter in to the library, inside the room, there she saw a black sheet which contains large letter as women & fiction.

## ***Intellectual freedom of women***

Being a woman they had their own freedom to make their own choices regarding lot of things. India is one of the most important countries in gender equality. Mr. Bellen was a woman whose husband was died, after his death her family become poor. So she began to go to work and she works equal to man, and she work hard. She says that she become free from mind. She want to say one thing to the girls don't go to your parents to get some allowance, as a women we should stand by our leg.

“Men's are written about women but women's are not”. She says that men's were spending their time to writing about women. She says that men's are always criticizing women.

She had found the answers in British museum. She says that how many books are written about women in the course of one year. She says that she had read all the books. Every page of notebooks explaining about women & poetry. It was written by the professor who is an ugly, an unattractive but he wrote about physical, mental and moral inferiority women. After she read that she began to draw a circle over the angry professor face. When she entered in to the restaurant the previous luncher who had left the piece of paper, which could be going to published in the paper. She read that the judge commented the divorce for the case of the shameless on the women.

“A Woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction; and that, as you will see, leaves the great problem of the true nature of women and true nature of fiction unsolved.”

## ***Women's are being victimized***

According to the national crime data, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) rape is reported for every 15 minutes. Women's are being victimized all over the world, by physically and mentally. And they were illiterate. Even now a day's also women's are having some fear to write something to get publish because, if they reveal anything to the society it will come back as revenge. So even they didn't get enough security to write something.

Mussolini and Napoleon wrote about inferiority of women. Men are criticizing women in everywhere because they had money and power. Every man had written something about women, but women couldn't do that. She asked herself fiction is not dropped like a pebbles which is upon a ground, but it is like a spider web attached everywhere. She explained about the spider web how it built a shelter, as a women we need a room and money of her own.

After that she took a book of professor Trevelyan of England. She looked upon the pages which were indicated women were beaten by her husband after she read that she felt shy. She read an incident in which a girl, who has been refused to marry, so she has beaten inside the room. Likewise Shakespeare's Sister Judith had betrothal with neighbouring son, but she refuse to marry him. For that she was beaten by her father. As a woman in the society, she had rights to decide their own life but in the novel they denied it.

## ***Impact on women independence***

In those periods, every man wrote something about literature, so that she had doubt why women didn't write about poetry during Elizabethan period. In 16<sup>th</sup> century the women's were in darken and cramped room, so that women can't write poetry, but some women they came across the struggles and they publish something .In those days poets like Keats, Shakespeare, George Eliot written about the history of literature. She says that women need a room of her own to be quite silence inside the room. But fathers they won't allow their children to leave the home to become a painter or writer. But laterly, in 19<sup>th</sup> century they allowed women to be an artist.

In 19<sup>th</sup> century poets they were sit in a single room and they wrote prose fiction then poetry. Emily Bronte was a middle class woman who has written poetry plays and the famous novel Pride and Prejudice without giving pain to the opposite sex. She hides her manuscript from the visitors. The narrator after read that book, she wondered that as women she wrote without hatred and bitterness.

“Feminism isn’t about making women strong. Women are already strong. It’s about changing the way the world perceives that strength.”

-G.D. Anderson

India got independence in August 15, 1947, after that they few people are educated, but they didn’t give education to women. Women need to do the household works and all. They need to be inside the four walls, laterly they give education to the girl child in the family. It is male dominated society so they didn’t get education like Men. But without giving proper education to women, in those days women were very bold and brave; women were such as Jhansi Rani, Veeramangai Velunachiyar, Rani Lakshmbhai, and so on. These people went for war also and they won victory in the field, this is what how they equipped themselves. The great women Kalpana chawla is an Astronaut and the first Indian Women on the space. She was fascinated to fly on the space, but her father didn’t allow her to go to space, because she is a woman know but her inspiration she went on the space and her dream became true. She became a inspirational person in every one’s life.

India is developing country but it is not at all safe for women, because women’s were abused by men in the society. It’s not only women even they were abused a girl child. Now-a-days it was increasing day by day, the law has punished that person but no one cares about that. Not only that women’s were not able to walk around the during night time. India got Independence in 1947, but women in the society they didn’t get proper Independence. In this novel the narrator portrayed very well about the life of women and their struggles.

### ***Women and Fiction***

Men’s are presented the Literature is the lovers of women. The narrator red the novels of Mary Charmichale, who was not a genius but she had written her first novel in a single room. Without any desire, she had written. If she had a room and money of her own she may become a great poet of those days.

“Women and fiction remain, so far as I am so concerned, unsolved problems.”

-Virginia Woolf

Women may use writing as an art and they spend their time on writing. The narrator took that the “Life’s Adventure” it is a long series she read that also and she read another four novels. Villette Emma Withering “HEIGHTS MIDDLE MARCH” written by women without the experience of life women written a novel in a single room, but they are not able to afford to buy the papers. The value of women is differing from others.

“As a women whatever you can write, you can, the age is not at all matter, and nobody can stop you. If women had a room of her own she may write whatever strike in her mind. As a poet he/ she need a place to think of her own to write poetry.”

### ***Conclusion***

It was so curious to read this novel. As a woman they need a room and money of her in order to write a fiction. Likewise in the novel “My career goes bung” Sybylla a girl who wrote an autobiographical article which was published in the magazines. In her village people had bad impact on her because of she wrote about her own village and her sufferings. Everyone was scolding her because of her writings, but she couldn’t bother about it. But the family members they need to support their children to write article.

### ***Reference/ Work cited***

- 1] <https://www.encyclopedia.com/arts/applied-and-social-sciences-maganizes/room-ones-own>
- 2] <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/roomofonesown/summary/>
- 3] Franklin, Miles. *My Career Goes Bung*, Date first posted and updated, March 2015
- 4] <https://feminisimindia.com/2017/10/04/woolf-plea-own-room/>