

Gender Discrimination: A Comparative Study of The Awakening by Kate Chopin and The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

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Abstract:-

Gender Discrimination is a systematic, unfavorable treatment of individuals on the basis of their gender, which denies them rights, opportunities or resources within any given society.(Internet)

Gender Discrimination is a widespread social rights violation that takes many forms, involving physically harassment, pregnancy prejudice, and different pay for women who do the same jobs as men. Most of the communities are male-dominated where a female is only presumed to be a mother, a perfect wife and a home-made with various positions associated to her in the household. As a spouse and mother, her duty of sacrifice, compassion and acquiescence are her necessary characteristics. Similarly, her adored integrity of compromise bring her life devoted and acquiescent. But this personal self of a female has very limited distinction in the patriarchal community and it governs to her self-effacement. Females form an indivisible part of human race which not only rules in the important procedure of facilitating the future ages of society but also play extremely significant positions in each step of life. In spite of playing very substantial parts within as well as external their residences, they are always regarded as “the weaker sex” who is secondary to their man companions. In all part of the world, females at times encounter a familiar difficulty that is of Gender Discrimination. No matter what their society or environment will be, they all are generally pertained to as “weak” and minor to their man companions. In this article, the researcher will make sincere endeavors to investigate this suffering of gender discrimination which is undergone by women through the world. In several cases, a woman, no matter of what class, religion or area she is, but she has to tolerate the same trauma of being segregated. In most of the rigid communities females in all categories have sophisticated very poor

significance, oppression and lead towards their exploitation. Women have been enslaved by males in every community. Woman in the entire world like in Asia, Europe or the Middle East is incapable to have any impact over the political, religious or cultural existences of her community. She neither acquires any estate nor inherits it, but she herself is treated as a commodity. In ancient times, if a man physically harasses a female, the penalty was conveyed to his wife by passing her over to the rapist's husband. In ancient Greece, females had no political rights and couldn't inherit any property either. They were even forbidden to leave homes after dark. Similarly, in most of parts of the world women were incapable to take part in any civil or political occasion. The main motive to write this research paper is to analyse the theme of gender discrimination in *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin and *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Keywords:- Gender Discrimination, Frustration, Oppression, Maltreatment, Inequalities, Women Empowerment

Introduction:- Every writer wants to convey a message or an idea through his / her works. He or she has a desire to change the society through their writing the same thing is followed by Kate Chopin and Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Both are the famous writer in their own viewpoint. The core issues represented in their works are gender roles, mental illness, Identity, freedom and Opposition to societal norms. Through their strong female characters, they represent several issues in society. If we talk about Kate Chopin she wrote many short stories and novels but *The Awakening* is the most famous. It was first published in 1899 and originally titled *A Solitary Soul*. It portrays a young mother's struggle to attain sexual and individual independence in the harsh society of the postbellum American South. The novel examines one woman's need to discover and dwell completely within her real individuality . Her commitment to that objective reasons tension with her companions and household, and also confrontations with the prominent significances of her period.

But that night she was like the little tottering, stumbling, clutching child, who of a sudden realizes its powers, and walks for the first time alone, boldly and without over- confidence....That she was seeing with different eyes and making the acquaintance of new conditions in herself that colored and changed her environment, she did not yet suspect. (Internet)

The protagonist of the novel, Edna Pontellier begins on a way of personal, intellectual, and physical regaining consciousness after wasting a very fascinating summer with her youthfulswain, Robert Lebrun.

“I suppose this is what you would call unwomanly, but I have got into a habit expressing myself. It doesn’t matter to me, and you may think me unwomanly if you like.”(internet)

In attempting to attain a feeling of herself as an entirely independent human being, she flouts tradition by walking out of her husband's home, keeping an extramarital relationship, and coming to be an artist. The novel covers the victories and frustrations in the life of a female as she attempts to bear with these brutal cultural difficulties. Edna avoids the conception of existing a “mother-woman” and battles the uncertainty of the 1899 that urges her to be dedicated and restrained to his housewife. While the definitive suicide of Edna is a manure of their fight against

a brutal community, this novel motivates and supports feminism as a way for women to get personal individuality, economic liberation and sexual liberty.

An indescribable oppression, which seemed to generate in some unfamiliar part of her consciousness, filled her whole being with a vague anguish. (Chopin, 1899 p.35)

In the quote on an unspeakable repression is a turmoil, particularly in the sphere of the family. The perfect made by a husband against a wife is a grievance in terms of gender equivalence. A husband should adequately understand a wife rather of repressing it by doing some turmoil against his wife. In other terms, women also want to be appreciated by their own husbands, as in speaking, women want their husbands in talking further softly and this demonstrates that her husband adores her extremely and will make her comfortable. If a husband cannot tells be regulated, it will give rise to a woman experience unappreciated. In the end she formulates her individuality and gives rise to her autonomous from social standards and taboos. She rejected performing her obligations as wife and mother and determines to be insensitive. She earns judgments that are applicable to her needs but opposite to the normal woman in the world. But through this journey, she faced a lots of difficulties.

We can get the similar thing in *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

“In a sick society, women who have difficulty fitting in are not ill, but demonstrating a healthy and positive response.”(Internet)

“*The Yellow Wallpaper*” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman was a rebellious fiction for feminists in the 1900s working to eradicate unfavourable gender discrimination. In that time, women were provided limited to no liberties and anticipated to deferentially fill the household positions. Through the whole story, the overwhelming gender roles are revealed as the woman is regulated by the male supremacy figures of her husband and brother who carry huge roles in community as physicians. Her husband, John, is exceptionally dominating and assumes what she can do in her available time, where she can rest, and who she can see with little respect to her viewpoint. This story provide a new standpoint to women, ascertaining the capacity of women to form their own individualities and break away from strangling constraints. All-around, Gilman manipulates the comparison of bright versus dark, uncomplicated syntax, and choking symbolism to ascertain the entanglement felt by women in that period. This was done in order to authorize alter for coming disparities in society’s criteria and to teach the readers on the discriminatory circumstances confronted by women. The narrator, who stays unidentified, is portrayed as a depressed and isolated prisoner who is victimized under her husband’s custody and efforts to smash unrestricted. She is encountered with friendships, subjects, and circumstances that appear honest and normal but that are certainly very unusual and even overwhelming. In an understanding, the plot of “*The Yellow Wallpaper*” is the narrator’s endeavor to prevent conceding the extent to which her superficial circumstance stifles her internal instincts. From the middle, we discern that the narrator is a creative, highly expressive woman. She recalls stunning herself with fictitious night demons as a child, and she appreciates the idea that the house they have taken is troubled. Yet as part of her “cure,” her husband prohibits her to practice her imagination in any way. Both her reason and her emotions rebel at this treatment, and she turns her imagination onto apparently impartial objects—the cabin and the wallpaper—in an endeavor to reject her thriving frustration. Her adverse emotions color her explanation of her surroundings, earning them appear incredible and sinister, and she evolves fixated on the wallpaper. As the narrator falls further into her internal infatuation with the wallpaper, she evolves progressively additional dissociated from her day-to-day life. This

procedure of dissociation starts when the tale does, at the very time she agrees to maintain a private narrative as “a solace to her mind.” From that point, her real impressions are concealed from the outer world, and the narrator starts to drop into a fantasy world in which the essence of “her situation” is made obvious in allegorical periods. Gilman shows us this district in the narrator’s consciousness by having the narrator dilemma over impacts in the world that she has effected. For example, the narrator doesn’t instantly comprehend that the yellow tints on her clothing and the extended “smooth” on the wallpaper are related. Furthermore, the narrator battles the completion that the dilemma of the woman in the wallpaper is an allegorical edition of her circumstance. At first, she even disapproves of the woman’s actions to exit and aims to “tie her up.”

When the narrator eventually observes herself with the woman imprisoned in the wallpaper, she is eligible to recognize that other women are compelled to trickle and conceal behind the household “patterns” of their beings, and that she herself is the one in need of liberation. The terrible of the story is that the narrator must relinquish herself to comprehend herself. She has untangled the structure of her existence, but she has ripped herself apart in bringing free of it. An extraordinary situation at the end of the story discloses how much the narrator has sacrificed.

Conclusion:- The continual effort for equality of women in the force and for equal chances is still heavily widespread in present time. The story progressively facilitates women to protest against gender discrimination and discover satisfaction in their unusual individualities. The Yellow Wallpaper and The Awakening were capable to inaugurate enormous modifications for women in their contemporary society as they broke away from the patriarchal probabilities. The story stimulated the notion of women being prepared to assert their temperament after exiting their compelled, household lifestyles. Women of that period were anticipated to submissively accept their husbands while operating the household.

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