



Kiran Jhaveri in Where there is Will

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Abstract: In Mahesh Dattani's play *Where There's a Will*, **Kiran Jhaveri** (often spelled Jhaveri, also referred to as Zaveri in some contexts) is a pivotal character who serves as the mistress of the dominating patriarch, Hasmukh Mehta. Kiran, who becomes caretaker of the Mehta family, shows the high class of urban mentality. She believes in the money-making policy. Hasmukh was very cautious about the validity of his 'Will' and to avoid any challenge he took precautionary steps in advance. She is a Marketing Executive in Hasmukh's company. Kiran is introduced as Hasmukh's mistress away from home. However, after Hasmukh dies of a heart attack and his ghost continues to observe the family, his "will" causes a twist: he bequeaths his wealth to Kiran, forcing her to move in with his family. She acts as a foil to Hasmukh's submissive wife, Sonal. While Sonal is subservient, Kiran is independent and holds a "high class of urban mentality". Despite being a woman, Kiran takes on a controlling "patriarchal" role, stepping into Hasmukh's shoes as the manager of the household and the business. She forces the family members to work in the office under her tutelage, effectively becoming a caretaker who manages the Mehta family's affairs. Her presence forces the family—Sonal, their son Ajit, and daughter-in-law Preeti—to break free from their previous subservience and confront the harsh realities of Hasmukh's controlling nature. Kiran represents the "New Woman" who defies traditional conventions, demonstrating that patriarchal control can be exercised by women as well, and ultimately acts as a catalyst for the family's liberation from Hasmukh's ghost.

Keywords: KiranJhaveri's character highlights **gender biases, urban mentality, financial dependence, and the perpetuation of patriarchy**. Kiran represents the "other woman" who turns the table on the traditional family structure, proving that the **patriarchal code** can be enforced by anyone who wields power (money), not just men. Mistress, Trustee, Caretaker, Patriarchal Code, Hasmukh's Will, Property Control, Urban Mentality, Gender Conflict, Subversion of Power.