



The Role and Emotions of Women in the Socio-economic Development of Kerala

Sisy Pappan, Guest Lecturer in English, Ambedkar College of Arts & Science Wandoor.

Abstract

Woman play indispensable role in various spheres of her life. Without the woman, the family and, subsequently, the larger society, cannot function properly. This paper examines the struggles of the female gender in the light of the socio-cultural realities of the traditional kerala society from a feminist perspective. The main objectives of the study is to examine the contributions of women in the socio-economic development of kerala and to describe the role of women in the development of the state. The paper also indented to explore the role and emotions of women and also to discuss the role of women in society.

Key Words : Socio-economic development, Feminism, Role.

INTRODUCTION

Although women play very significant roles in various spheres of kerala's development, their contributions to the growth of the country are, often, not acknowledged or encouraged. For instance, the role of women in the development of the different area, where the wealth of the country is being generated, has received little or no attention even though they are actively involved in the developmental activities of the region. Certain challenges still face their efforts and make them seem insignificant to this region. This paper examines the struggles of the female gender in the light of the socio-cultural realities of the traditional kerala society from a feminist perspective. Adopting a content analysis as its methodology, Joys of Motherhood mirrors the attitude and perceptions of the male gender against the females. It also unearths the disparities that exist between both genders thereby leading to undue subjugation of women. Thus, a feminist literary criticism shall be undertaken to bring to light the various forms of discrimination and gender biases. On a wider and general perspective, feminism is a proposal for social transformation and a movement that strives to end the oppression of women in the society.

Definition of Key Terms

Socio-economic development: This is used to mean a positive or upward increase in the social and economic activities of a country that increase the standard of living of its people.

Feminism: The movement or ideology that believes in the equality of gender and seeks to provide equal opportunity for both male and female without bias or prejudice.

Role: This is used to mean the position occupied by a person or the activities they engage in so as to contribute to nation building.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to project the role and emotions of women in the socio-economic development of kerala. The objectives are:

- To examine the contributions of women in the socio-economic development of kerala.
- To describe the role of women in the development of the kerala.
- To explore the role and emotions of women.
- To discuss the role of women in society.

Significance of Study

The study is significant because of the following reasons:

- It will examine the role of women in socio-economic development thereby projecting a positive image of women in society.
- It will contribute to past literatures on gender studies or feminist literature.
- It will be useful as secondary source materials to future researchers in feminist literature.
- It will be useful to students and teachers who may consult it for further research.
- It will be useful for its contributions to knowledge.

Role of the woman in the Society:

The significant place of the woman in the home and family cannot be disputed. Man may be the head of the family, but the woman is definitely its heart and lifeline. Without the woman, the family and, subsequently, the larger society, cannot function properly. The society is chiefly fashioned along lines of gender discrimination such as assigning or confining certain roles to women by the men who feel that that is a limit to which a woman can go far as far as the society is concerned. Thus, the advocates of feminism see it as a strong response to stereotypes and misgivings held by the lot of the society against the female gender. People give different responses to identical emotion-provoking stimuli. In some cases, personality is responsible for the difference. Other times, it's a result of the job requirements. People vary in their inherent ability to express emotional intensity. You may know people who almost never show their feelings. They rarely get angry. They never show rage. In contrast, you probably also know people who seem to be on an emotional roller coaster. When they're happy, they're ecstatic. When they're sad, they're deeply depressed. We'll explore the impact personality has on an individual's emotions in more detail later on in the chapter. Jobs make different demands on our emotions. For instance, air traffic controllers, surgeons, and trial judges are expected to be calm and controlled, even in stressful situations

Role of the woman in the family:

Women are the building blocks upon which the foundations of happy homes and families are built... The roles of the woman in the family are diverse and as the woman herself: wife, partner, confidant, mother, nurturer, provider, teacher, friend, counsellor, as well as the emotional and spiritual anchor. She is one who stands in her family, especially the children, moral and ethical standards, and does everything possible to ensure they are educated. She is also their number one advocate, critic and encourager. She works diligently to support her husband in ensuring and sustaining the welfare, health and stability of the family. Sometimes, she is a single parent who plays the role of man and woman, father and mother; this, however, does not hinder her efforts to give of her best to her family. She also plays numerous significant roles outside the dynamics of the nuclear family. These efforts on the home front, though sometimes invisible to the public eye, sustain the welfare, health and stability of the region and, inevitably, its progress and development. Unfortunately, due to gender inequality, the family is often a domain where many women are socially restricted, economically exploited, emotionally degraded and rendered politically passive and poor. This limits not only the woman but her entire family and community who would have benefitted from her resources.

FEMINISM: TYPES OF FEMINISM

Feminism is the belief in full social, economic and political equality for women. Feminism incorporates the position that societies prioritize the male point of view and that women are treated unjustly within those societies.

Brief description of different types of feminism:

Liberal Feminism: is one of the most common types of feminism and is institutionalized in the organization, the National Organization of Women (NOW). Basic beliefs of this position are that women and men are alike in important ways and should receive equal treatment. This movement is often referred to as second wave feminism.

Radical feminism: Growing out of a discontentment with their treatment in New Left political movements of the 1960's, many women began addressing issues of oppression on a systematic level. They argued that oppression of women is a platform on which all other forms (race, class, sexual orientation) of oppression are based.

Eco feminism: Coming into consciousness in 1974, Ecofeminism unites feminist philosophy with environmental and ecological ideas and ethics. Ecofeminists see the oppression of women as one example of an overall oppressive ideology.

Marxist Feminism: Stemming from the work of Karl Marx, Marxist feminism focuses on the economic forces that work to oppress women. Marxist feminists question how a capitalist system supports a division of labor that privileges men and devalues women.

Socialist Feminism: Extending Marxist feminist thought, Socialist Feminists believe that women's unpaid labor in the home is one of the fundamental causes of sexism and oppression of women. Moreover, patriarchy, the system of sex oppression is connected with other forms of oppression, such as race and class.

Dalit feminism: Is a feministic perspective that includes questioning caste and gender roles among the Dalit population and within feminism and the larger women's movement.

Lesbian Feminism: This type of feminism is connected with one's sexual orientation. Important issues for this feminist perspective include fighting for marriage and adoption rights, fair and safe treatment in the workplace, and women's health issues for gay and lesbian couples.

Cultural feminism: The view that there is a "female nature" or "female essence", attempts to revalue and redefine attributes ascribed to femaleness. It is also used to describe theories that commend inborn differences between women and men.

Black feminism is a type of feminism, it emerged as a resistance towards the race discrimination inside feminism. Feminism has been a white ideology. Since, there were no experience shared of a black women. Black feminists believe that sexism and racism are bound together. This is called Intersectionality. Black feminism seeks to empower and emancipate

women not just in relation with white but also regarded with black. Women had to experience discrimination on two grounds; firstly, they are women and secondly they are black women. Black women empower themselves by creating self definitions and self valuations that enable

themselves to establish positive, multiple images and repel negative controlling representations of black womanhood. They recognize a distinct cultural heritage that gives them the energy and skills to resist and overcome daily discrimination. Through this movement, critics try to form communities for black women to share similar experiences.

FINDINGS

However, more often than not, labour is divided along gender lines, creating room for the marginalization of women in some spheres of the economy. This imbalance should be addressed and rectified. Also, in situations where women are limited in their economic activities due to poor access to resources, avenues should be created to expand their opportunities and enhance their participation.

Emotions and moods are similar in that both are affective in nature. But they're also different—moods are more general and less contextual than emotions. And, events do matter. The time of day and day of the week, stressful events, social activities, and sleep patterns are all factors that influence emotions and moods.

References

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