



A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN'S SUPPRESSION IN THE MALE DOMINATED SOCIETY: IN REFERENCE TO MOTHER OF 1084 BY MAHASWETA DEVI

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Mahasweta Devi, one of the greatest Indian writers in Bengali, was born on 14th January, 1926. She was a great activist. She specially fought for the benefits of the tribal people of West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Her writings were really very influential and were related to our real life. That's why she was awarded some literary awards like Sahitya Akademy Award, Jnanpith Award, Ramon Magsaysay Award, Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan. Her first work was **Jhansi Ki Rani**(1956). Later she has written **Hajar Churasir Maa**(1974), **Aranyer Adhikar**(1979), **Agnigarbha**(1978), **Murti**(1979) etc. Afterwards **Hajar Churashir Maa** was translated to **Mother of 1084**. Here we will see how Sujata, mother of Brati and wife of Dibyanath Chatterjee, will be dominated in the male dominated or patriarchal society.

KEYWORDS: Mother, domination, Patriarchy, Suppression, Stereotype.

Abstract: In our male dominated society, a woman plays a very significant role. The qualities of women are stereotyped in our society. They are always bound to take care of their children and husband, they are treated as the cook of the family. They do not have any freedom. They are always considered as weak. And we find this theme in most of the writings of Mahasweta Devi.

In the novel **Mother of 1084**, Mahasweta Devi has highlighted two dominated women in the patriarchal society. They are Sujata and Somu's mother. Sujata was the mother of Brati. Both Brati and Somu were killed in the Naxalite Movement.

Role of a Mother in the life of her Children: Each and every mother plays a very vital role in the life of her children. She sacrifices her all pleasures of life for the sake of her children. When the novel Mother of 1084 opens we see that Sujata, the mother gave birth of two sons Brati and Jyoti, and two girls Nipa and Tuli. Brati was the youngest son and he was very close to her mother.

One day in a very harsh morning, Sujata awakes from sleep and comes to know that Brati had died. And already police has given him the No. 1084.

Domination of Dibyanath upon Sujata: When the news came that Brati had died, Brati's father said to all the members of the family not to go to the police station to identify Brati. Even he didn't allow Sujata to take his car because Dibyanath thought "**It would not be the right thing to keep his car waiting before Kantapukur. Anybody could identify the car.**"(P.7)But a mother can't accept it in any way. She rushes to the police station to identify Brati. Here we get one evidence of male dominated society.

When Brati was 2years old, Dibyanath again forced Sujata to take another issue. But Sujata Protested strongly against the proposal. And this was the first rebellion of Sujata. Here also Dibyanath wanted to make Sujata listen to his proposal as he was a male.

Moreover, in this novel we come to know that when Brati was 3 years old, they were going through a toughest financial crisis. At that time Sujata's husband sent her to do a job in a bank. But as soon as the crisis is over she was not allowed to do the job. Dibyanath said to Sujata, "**You needn't work any longer. Why don't you give up the job and look after the household? Mother is dead.**" (P.46)Sujata refuses to leave her job. But her husband does not want to hear her words. Finally, Sujata sticks to her job and it was the time when second rebel takes place.

Dibyanath always thought that it was Sujata's responsibility to respect her husband,i.e., Dibyanath. But he has nothing to do to receive Sujata's love. He thought that he has owned his own house and he has kept servants and his responsibility is complete. Here also we find a dominance in the sense that only Sujata has to maintain responsibility and Dibyanath does not have any.

Again, total blame goes to Sujata when Brati was killed in the Naxalite Movement. We know that in our society our father and mother bring us. But if a child does something good, all the credit goes to his/her father and when a child does something bad, all blame goes to his/her mother. In the similar way, after Brati's death Sujata was blamed. Side by side as

Brati's mentality was against his father, Dibyanath blames Sujata and says, **"Mother's child! It's you who taught him to be my enemy."** (P.15)

Sujata's voice was also suppressed in case of her husband Dibyanath Chatterjee's extra marital affairs with a young typist. She wanted to say something, but she could not say. When Sujata was young she lived in Kolkata and she was said by her parents to do her B.A degree so that she can get an educated husband. And as a result she gets Dibyanath Chatterjee, a charter-accountant, as her husband. But all goes in vain because although she was educated, she was dominated by her husband in every aspect which was unexpected by her.

Moreover, each and every work in Sujata's family would happen in the guidance of Dibyanath. He also brought up his children as his ideal and Sujata could not change their way of life. In a simple way, Sujata was just a show piece in her family and Dibyanath always showed his dominance as a male upon Sujata.

Here Sujata is represented as an object of sex, an object of earning money but one who does not have any right to express her own ideas/thoughts.

Conclusion: In the conclusion, we can say that Mahasweta Devi in her novel **Mother of 1084** has depicted some instances of male dominated society. Here Sujata was always controlled by her husband Dibyanath. Dibyanath never changed his ideals but Sujata had to change herself as Dibyanath wanted. She had to do sacrifice because of the adjustment with Dibyanath, her husband. On the other hand, we can say that Mahasweta Devi has depicted the oppression of women in the male dominated society. Here the dominated male was and the suppressed woman was Sujata.

Works Cited:

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