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Abstract:
Despite belonging to two diverse cultures and wrote in two different eras there is a lot of similarity between the two authors from the East and the West i.e. Nayantara Sahgal and John Galsworthy. They are conscientious authors who voiced the social evils of their respective societies and the issue of the subjugation of women is one among such evils. Woman is not a possession but a person is a voice which echoes in all the literary works of Sahgal. Women deserves a respectable position and a definite role in various domains of life is the voice of Galsworthy in his literary works. Both the authors questioned the subjugation of women and criticized the male dominated society for being callous to them. For the development of a society equal rights need to be granted to women.

It is this humanistic approach of the two authors that has prompted the researcher to highlight in the paper, in order to stress the fact that writers do not write in vacuum. How these two authors have waged a war against the subjugation of women in their respective societies.

The orthodox norms of the society need to be changed which always push her back, in order to let her express the different potentials and capabilities with which God has sent her to this world.

Key Words: Conscientious, subjugation, orthodox, humanistic, vacuum, potentials, capabilities.

Women from times immemorial have been subjugated and marginalized by almost all the societies of the world. They have been treated as slaves and given a secondary position in everything. The orthodox male dominated societies of the world denied them the rights which they otherwise deserve to have. Although different rights have been given to them by different societies and religions but such rights are only there in the books because in reality they are still facing those challenges which they had faced ages before. Their voice is always suppressed and their demands neglected for being female. Right from her birth she becomes a victim of 'otherness' which kills her inwardly and never let her assert her position. The different organizations of the world are always beating about the bush for her equality but that is a distant dream which never come true. She is treated as an object of beauty meant for the enjoyment and entertainment of the males. Her role is cut out i.e. to gratify the sexual desires of males, produce children like a machine and take care of everything and everyone like a servant. The callous males which she come across at the different stages of her life as caretakers, always use her for their selfish and cruel designs. Kahlil Gibran says,

"Woman is like a nation that is oppressed by priests and rulers. A woman is to a nation as light is to a lamp. Will not the light be dim if the oil in the lamp is low."  

Different men of letters from various cultures in different eras have voiced this issue in their writings. All these writers have tried their best in their own ways to instruct, inform and warn the societies to
which they belong, against the atrocities done to the females. Their hearts bleed to see the suffering of women, which is clearly reflected in their writings. Even some female writers have made it a point of view in their writings to voice the sufferings of the women at the hands of a male dominated society. The stereotyped roles which a women is bound to perform are questioned by these authors. Although much talked and much discussed, the position and status which a women must enjoy is yet a dream come true. Gang rapes, molestation, dowry deaths, divorce, female feoticide, marginalization, subjugation, gender discrimination are some of the various rewards which this patriarchal society has confered on her. She is never been treated equal by any society of the world. Woman has always been dependent on man. The two sexes have not shared the world in equality. Simon de Beaviour says : "Woman ? very simple, say the fanciers of simple formulas : She is a womb, an ovary; she is a female - this word is sufficient to define her. In the mouth of a man the epithet female has the sound of an insult, yet he is not ashamed of his animal nature; on the contrary, he is proud if someone says of him. He is a male."^2

John Galsworthy and Nayantara Sahgal are conscientious writers who failed to shut their eyes from the atrocities done to women of their respective societies. Though they belong to two diverse cultures and wrote in two different eras, they are similar in their approach and attitude so far as highlighting the subjugation of woman in concerned. They suggested various possible solutions of this problem in their literary works. For Sahgal women is not a possession but a person and needs to be given equal rights in all walks of life. Galsworthy is of the opinion that she needs to be treated respectfully and given a position and status, which is denied to her by the male dominated society. Throughout their writings they encourage their female characters to challenge the status given to them by the orthodox male dominated society. The female characters of these two authors are bold enough to challenge the roles assigned to them by the society and have courage to fight to the finish to assert their rights.

All the female characters of Sahgal are the victims of the male-dominance. There is a quest for identity crisis in them, which they attain one way or the other. Her fictional women strive towards freedom, towards social justice against tyranny, towards self-determination. Some of her female characters are docile, humble and meek creatures who surrender their personalities before the male dominance, while some other characters are bold enough to challenge the inhuman treatment given to them by the males. The search for identity begins with her first novel *A Time to be Happy* with Maya Shivpal and reaches to its peak with Ranee of Vijaygarh in *Mistaken Identity*. The various bold women of Sahgal's world are Maya of *A time to be Happy*, Rashmi and Nita of *This Time of Morning*, Saroj, Leela and Mera of *Storm in Chandigarh*, Simrit and Uma of *The Day in Shadow*, Rose and Sonali of *Rich Like Us*, Pinky, Devi, Lyda and Nell of *A Situation in New Delhi* and Sylla and Renee of Vijaygarh of *Mistaken Identity*. All these bold women of Sahgal's fictional world challenged the dominance of males to
assert their rights. They suffered a lot in their quest for identity but fought like warriors to assert their rights.

Renee of Vijaygarh, the wife of a minor Raja is the bold and 'New Woman' of Sahgal's fictional world who set an example by talking a brave decision of eloping with her Muslim lover. She even suggested her son, Bhushan Singh to marry Razia, Yousf's daughter. Married at the age of five, she is treated like a neglected possession by the Raja, who kept his polygamic interests alike by getting married thrice. The Ranee took a brave decision and bade good bye to the false Ranee hard and preferred Yousf over her rich husband - the Raja of Vijaygarh. Thus she set an example that it is better to live a life without comforts than being neglected and treated like possession. She is the 'New Women' of Sahgal's fictional world, who attained her quest for identity by challenging the age old norms set by the male dominated society.

Devi is a bold and emancipated woman always ready to criticize the wrong motives of the politicians and has a good influence on Usman Ali, Michael and even her son, Rashid - a nexalite. She thoroughly criticized the power hungry ministers around her in the cabinet. She feels isolated among these men of hackneyed phrases and empty talk. This 'New Woman' of Sahgal is bold enough to challenge the wrong doings of her fellow politicians. Even in the face of the daily denial of Gandhi in official circles, the torch is kept ablaze by Devi.

Another bold woman we come across is Sonali, an IAS officer who resigned from her post because she opposed the decision of the materialistic officers and politicians to risk the lives of common people by signing on the file, which is meant for the approval of 'Happy-Fizz', a cold drink not fit enough for people. She resigned from her post because she found herself misfit in all round corruption breeding administration like Devi of A Situation in New Delhi. Sylla of Mistaken Identity, is a modern women - bold, emancipated and faithful to her conscience. She lived a life following her wishes. She loved Bhushan Singh the way she wanted to love him and when the question of marriage came she preferred Nanzer over Bhushan because of his stable and sound financial condition. She helped Bhushan Singh when he was in jail and did everything which her lover needed. However, she decided not to marry him because of her future security. She is a modern women of Sahgal's world, so a representative of the modern female sensibility. Razia whose attachment and involvement in love-making with Bhushan Singh became the cause of Hindu-Muslim riots in Vijaygarh proved a bold and emancipated woman. She married according to her parents wishes rather to let her involvement with her lover tell upon her life.

The female characters in the works of Galsworthy are both round and flat. All the round characters of Galsworthy share one thing or the other with the round characters of Sahgal. They too like Sahgal's characters face hardships but never let their hopes die down under he pressure of the male dominated society. Mrs. Roberts in Strife helped her husband in his fight against the capital and stood shoulder to shoulder with
him. She sacrificed her life for the ideals of her husband and never accepted any help from Enid Underwood. Though at that time there was nothing in her home to cook for the family. She never let Enid Underwood, her well wisher, to say anything against her husband. She valued every decision of her husband though inwardly she was knowing that her husband's obstinacy was telling upon her life. This supreme sacrifice made her a bold character of Galsworthy's world because she sacrificed her life without even breathing a single word of complaint. She suppressed her own desires to have a child because her husband was against the idea. She died of a disease of which her husband failed to take care of. She suffered the pangs of poverty without a single word of complaint. She is a bold woman in the real sense of the word whom even the writer himself glorified. Another bold and emancipated character in the play is Enid Underwood who opposed her father for being cruel to the poor labours. She does not even hesitate to help the enemies of her father, who were dying of starvation. She is bold in the true sense of the word because in her own way she helped the noble cause of the labours to have their share in everything which their cruel capital masters have denied to them.

Another bold and emancipated women projected by Galsworthy is in *The Forsyte Saga*, Irene Heron, who challenged and rejected the false principles of Forsytes. She not only rejected her husband Soames Forsyte but even through her son rejected his daughter too. The material prosperity and the high social status of Soames failed to win her love for him. She lived her life according to her own will rather to let the Forsyte principles make a coward of her. Through and through she is one of the many bold women characters in the works of Galsworthy. Equally bold in Winifred Dartie who taught a bitter lesson to her husband by sending him a notice for divorce to make him realize his mistake of having an extramarital affair with a French dancer. She made him weep bitter tears but at the last moment compromised in the court for her children. Some other bold characters in the Saga suffered initially but towards the end they succeeded in attaining their identity.

All these female characters of the two authors share so many things that make the readers assert that the two authors are similar in their portrayal of the boldness and emancipation of women. They challenged the age old notion that assigned a submissive, secondary and docile role to the women. They left no stone unturned to assert their rights. Such women paved path for those millions of the women all across the globe who face similar problems. Both the authors glorify the emancipation of women in their writings by highlighting the different sufferings they go through but which go unnoticed.

Both the authors have thus challenged the age old orthodox customs which had strengthened the males rather then females. Whatever the condition, and in which state any Sahgal's woman character finds herself, she always dare to challenge the injustice done to her. Same is the case with Galsworthy's female characters, who exposed the hollowness of a society, which otherwise seemed perfect to the world. God created man and woman as equal. It is the men who are responsible for this pathetic
condition of women. All they need to do is to raise a voice against the injustice. Both the authors made society responsible for the suffering of woman. Galsworthy highlighted the hollowness and immorality of the Victorian society in treating woman as an object of entertainment - always ready to sacrifice her identity for the people whom she considers as her well wishers but who in reality are her great enemies. Sahgal too is of the opinion that for a true progress and prosperity of a society woman need to be treated equal and given her share, which is denied to her, one way or the other. Thus to sum up the whole discussion we can say that writers never write in vacuum, rather they have a definite purpose i.e. to highlight and suggest remedies to those social evils which are stigma on the face of a society.

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