

Cultural Embodiment of Women in Pakistani Literature: A Critical Analysis of Kishwar Naheed's Writings

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Article Information	Abstract
Received: October 20, 2022 Revised: December 24, 2023 Accepted: December 30, 2023	Pakistani society is a male-dominated society. Females consider secondary characters in society. Women always have to bear the violence, power, and cruelty of men. Kishwar Naheed is a woman who faces many problems in her life in a male-oriented society. She discusses all the issues and problems faced by women in the male dominant society in her writings. In the current study qualitative method was used to analysis of culture embodiment of women in Kishwar Naheed book "Aurat, Zuban-e-khalq se Zuban-e-hal tak". Finding of the study shows that the most important thing which is impacting women's lives is the change of the world into materialism. Cultural Patterns of society take revolution which provides women more security and respect while other religions take it as males control women. The whole society was male dominant where the female was considered inferior and the male rule over the body of women. He controlled her and masculinity was the most valuable in society.
Keywords Women Society Community Position Feminist writings	

1 Introduction

Kishwar Naheed was born in 1940 to a Syed family in Bulandshah India. She is a feminist Urdu poet from Pakistan. Kishwar was a witness to the violence including rape and abduction of women associated with the partition. She migrated to Pakistan in 1949. She has written several poetry books. She has also received awards including Sitara-e-Imtiaz for her literary contribution to Urdu literature.

Kishwar Naheed was born into a middle class family that educated its sons well but only taught its daughters to read and write before arranging marriages for them. Kishwar Naheed had to fight to receive an education at a time when did not go to school. She studied at home and obtained a high school diploma, but she received a master's degree in economics from Punjab University, Lahore She married a man of her own choice, was disowned by her family and became a civil servant, a career which she pursued for 38 years. Sent on leave for five years when the country was under Martial Law, she went to court to protest her suspension and was reinstated. She was briefly arrested in February 1983, along with other women

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activists for protesting against the proposed Law of Evidence that was discriminatory to women.

Later in life, Kishwar Naheed held administrative roles in various national institutions. She was Director General of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts before her retirement. She also edited a prestigious literary magazine *Mahe Hawwa* whose goal is to help women without an independent income, become financially independent through cottage industries and selling handicrafts.

For over four decades, Kishwar Naheed has been a fearless and independent voice in an environment that has at times, been extremely hostile. In her current role as coordinator of *Hawwa Crafts Cooperatives*, this gifted feminist writer, poet and activist have been responsible for reviving dying crafts in remote areas of Pakistan and for helping about 2000 craftswomen make better lives for themselves.

Hawwa crafts Cooperatives has over the past 20 years trained and upgrade the 2000 craftswomen. As a writer, Kishwar Naheed was in trouble under martial law. Two of her books were banned and she was also arrested on the charges of spreading pornography. Frequently under surveillance, she had to send her two sons, out of Pakistan, for fear that the martial law regime or the fundamentalist forces might use them to intimidate her.

In 1998, Kishwar Naheed then working as director general of culture, resigned from the service when the minister of the culture objected to a classical dance festival in the country. This pioneer in feminist and resistance literature has produced nine volumes of poetry, eight books on women's issues, eight books of translations of contemporary resistance and international literature, and 12 books for children. She also wrote weekly columns for newspapers. Kishwar, who lives in Islamabad, also works as a consultant with Action Aid and the Asian Development Bank.

Kishwar Naheed is a woman who has remained continuously engaged in writing for more than forty years, producing more than forty books all small and big volumes included. She has been participating in social cultural and political movements in one way or another for about 50 years. She was among the earlier broadcasters of Radio Pakistan. Every event of import, every significant development you name it and Kishwar Naheed knows the inner story of just everything that happened in Pakistan because she experienced it all. She has been a working woman, since her early twenties, nursing to become an executive of institutions such as The National Arts Council of Pakistan.

1.1 Works of Kishwar Naheed:

Kishwar Naheed works a lot to empower women. She wrote many books in which she discusses the gender inequalities and problems which are faced by women and also highlights the patriarchal society. She also discusses the domination of men in society. Books of Kishwar Naheed, *Sher aur Bakri* 2012, *Raat kay Musafir* 2011, *Khawateen Afsana Nigar* 1996, *Jadu ki Handiyaa* 2012, *Dasht-e-Qais mein Laila* 2001, *Galiyyan Dhoop Drwaza* 1978, *Chaand ki Beti* 2012, *The distance of shout* 2001, *A Bad women's story* 2009.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

- To explore the culture embodiment of women in Pakistani literature.
- To find out the status of woman in culture context.

- To shows the status of woman in male dominated society?

1.3 Problem Statement

Females are the integral part of the society and playing a vital role in the development of society and other sphere of life. Having the highly importance she is still facing many major issue in her public and private life. Many writers across the world highlighted the status of women in society. There is dire need to highlight the women position in context to Pakistani literature. So, keeping this point of view study tried to find out the women position in society which predict in the Pakistani literature especially focusing on the famous Pakistani female writer Kishwer Naheed.

1.4 Research Questions

- Does the female consider inferior to men?
- What literature predicts the causes of women inferior status in society?

2 Literature Review

Mahmood (2015) stated that gender discrimination hindered women's empowerment. Society defines the different roles for both males and females. The public sphere is associated with the male and the private sphere with the female. But females have a great contribution to economic progress. The wage gap also exists between males and females. Women have to be paid less as compared to men for the same work. Both men and women face different types of problems in society, but women are the most vulnerable. They face restrictions on working in a public place due to security reasons.

Habib, et al. (2016) describe that the security responsibilities of females and children are attached to the male. In society, it is considered that it is the male who transfers the knowledge to girls otherwise if women do they have an empty mind. Female status in society is always judged by male status. Prostitution is mostly attached to a female because the male controls her. A Male can have many wives at a time but women cannot act like him.

Ikramullah (1963) As such the culture and traditions of the Pakistani people are a blend of continued adherence to Hindu values and customs by a majority of the converts to Islam in the region, on the one hand, and the values and traditions of Islam brought by migrants and conquerors on the other hand. Due to overt similarities and consistencies, the practices of the seclusion of women (Purdah) as status symbols and their exclusion from male-oriented work (which also is prominent among Hindus) remained intact and have been blended with the Islamic traditions of honoring and segregating women. However, orthodoxy in Pakistan usually invokes religious- injunctions rather than cultural norms to affect the status of women.

Mahmood et.al. (2017) concluded that women face health issues because they have no proper diet. They have no access to medical facilities. There are no proper medical facilities in rural areas and people have less awareness about the reproductive health of women. That's why women face health issues. Females have fewer opportunities for education as compared to males because society is male dominated. A male member of the family was not allowed the women for education. They imposed restrictions on females that's why females have no access to education.

According to Skalli (2001) in Pakistani culture, patriarchal system is dominant in families and all other spheres of life and resultantly women are placed in a weaker social status. In this culture, gender discrimination is quite visible and girls are deprived of their basic rights of education and health. Similarly, the equal jobs opportunities are not present and thus women are left economically much weaker than men. The family decisions are taken by the heads of families, i.e. men.

Mahmood (2021) finding stated that male is dominant in society and females have to obey them, because the patterns of society for her are decided by him. Women must reject history because there is nothing for them from which she inspires and starts to work.

3 Methodology

Qualitative methodology was used to examine the women's situation in society and the position of women in the eyes of different female writers in Pakistan. So for this purpose, it was examined by the writing of the most famous female Pakistani writer Kishwar Naheed's book "Aurat, Zuban-e-khalq se Zuban-e-hal tak". First 6 Chapter taken from her Book.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

Conflict theory, first developed by Karl Marx, is a theory that society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources. According to Marx, (1973) conflict theory, domination and power, rather than consensus and conformity, maintain social order. According to conflict theory, men, as the dominant gender, subordinate women to maintain power and privilege in society. Conflict theory asserts that social problems arise when dominant groups mistreat subordinate groups, and thus advocates for a gender balance of power. According to Frederick Engels, the family structure is analogous to the relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, with women having less power than men in the household because they rely on them for wages. In Conflict Theory, men, like any other group with a power or wealth advantage, fought to maintain control over resources (in this case, political and economic power). Conflict between the two groups caused things like the Women's Suffrage Movement and was responsible for social change.

4 A critical Overview of the Women's Situation

Cultural patterns highly affect the lives of women in society. Women are considered inferior in society due to cultural patterns. Women also face different types of violence due to these cultural patterns. Like they face health issues, mobility issues, and many other problems faced by women in society due to existing cultural patterns. They have no property rights. They also face the issue of education. They have no access to education due to security reasons and also due to mobility issues.

Stereotypes hindered women's empowerment and decision-making power according to their own will. Some stereotypes also hindered women's economic activities, like women are not capable to work in the public sphere, she is only capable of the private sphere rearing and caring for children. She can just perform household tasks. The wage gap is also an issue faced by women in the workplace. Harassment is also a main cause that hindered women's economic progress. Mostly she faces sexual and psychological harassment at the workplace. Women also face different issues at the family level. They face different types of violence

within the family. Psychological violence like mental torture, physical violence like slapping, beating, and physical abuse, and sexual violence like marital rape and sexual rape.

4.1 War against Women at Every Level

The evolution of human beings starts with violence, males oppress females. But today to some extent males do respect women. Three million years ago, matriarchal societies were present where women rule. Ten thousand years ago studies show that mutual understanding was common between both sexes. In Christ's time, Patriarchal societies exist where males dominate, Bishops were superior and females were nuns. Man rule over women they think that women are less advanced in technical skills and sciences that's why they can't make progress. Feudalism and capitalism are more related to males. In the 18th century, females have no right to property, business, and inheritance. In the 19th century, experiments were made to improve the situation of women. At the time of Marxism, the Socialists did not give any attention towards women as they performed the duty of rearing and caring for children, and domestic chores. In the mid-19th century voice for women's rights was uplifted by some middle-class women. Access to education, employment, opportunities, and involvement in politics, and at that time wages were also limited for women. Males feel insecure when females join the publishing sphere. Females are associated with sensitivity. Males rule over society, that's why they want to be obeyed. Girls have to follow their mothers because their future is related to them.

It is considered that the female spoils the male. Females are known as the property of males. Women's first movement challenged the patriarchy because they did not consider women's role as work. Many males Harassed females based on religion. In some countries, the law permitted a male that he can make the murder his wife. It is the male who makes women prostitutes by giving healthy amounts, on pleasing him. This world wants to control and dominate females.

4.2 Women and Nature

Female is associated with the devil because both leads toward evil. In spiritual matters, the nature of females is different from that of males. It is said that there is no difference between women and children .women are physically and mentally weak as compared to men. the word women are used for the sake of pleasure, satisfaction, and fulfilment of desires. In Christianity, it is said that Eve was created from the rib of Adam, and that's why she has to serve and obey him. An example of the male is like the sun, which rules the other planets. Women are more close to nature because of simplicity; We can differentiate between men and women by psychological wishes. In societies, it is a myth that women spoil men due to their emotional behaviour. the presence of hysteria makes women emotional. It is suggested that men should never share their feelings with women because they can't understand their problems. It is said that men are the Caliph of God not women. It is taught that women should obey their men. Females are associated with slavery. Nature defines the roles of a woman as a good wife and mother. Females are more close to nature as compared to males. It is said that women are clever like a wild animals. Most crimes are related to females. The heart and brains of women have a great impact on their souls. Females are more vulnerable due to reproduction .female become subjugated to males due to their reproduction. At that time there was a specific age for girls,(sixteen to seventeen years) for education and there was no right to higher education for them and it was also said that it will spoil them. The biological formation of the female is more complicated than compared of the male. It is also said that

the brain of the female is small as compared to the male. The intellectuality of the female is also less as compared to the male. Females are considered the weakest sex of society. Male members of society dominate females that's why she is considered the weak element of society. Women are considered a disabled part of society. Women are more sensitive but less selfish as compared to men. The mental ability of the female is equal to that of disabled old people.

4.3 Evolution of Human and Women

In 1859 Darwin's book was published and he admitted the process of evolution. According to him the process of evolution seems "fruitful and changeable". Darwin writes that when he studied Malthus's book then it came to his mind, case by getting your chosen race, you will destroy other races. Wallis and Darwin take the idea of evolution by studying Malthus's book, according to which in the process of evolution children are born. According to Darwin the history of life was based on social liberty and individuality. In Victoria's times, male preference was common and the whole society revolves around the male.. In the 19th century, some women take notice for demanding their rights (Darwin, 1859). In the 1970s women have no scientific knowledge and experience like Darwin and Spenser. The education of the female was limited. M . Feber was the observer of insects during his study he observed that male partners fight with each other and the winner takes females with him. The same situation takes place in human beings and is used by a male as a commodity. But Darwin's view is different he states females show that they are innocent, but in fact, they are not. Male member of society fights with each other and the reason behind them is female. In his second book, *The Descent of Man and Selection concerning Sex* states that males are more biologically powerful than women. He discussed that distinctions can never be extinct from society. Scientific studies and observations are In the favor of males. Males and females are sexually different mostly based on reproductive organs. Male is physically and sexually stronger and more active than females. Female is more emotionally attached to children because she looks after their children at the time of birth. In animals and human beings, both women attract males and males towards females. Mostly the attributes attached to males are stronger, active, aggressive and warriors while females are weak, fragile and emotionality is attached to them. He fights with other males to show his aggression and becomes happy to fight with others. The biggest difference between males and females is their mental ability, male feel superior to them because they have greater this ability and make their name in every field of life. The hunting and securing of females and families is the responsibility of males. In the past males cover long distances for capturing prey while females stay at home or cover short distances near their homes for gathering food and other needs. Still, today hunting and security of women both are associated with males and they cover long distances while women cover short dignity honour are still attached to women. They still are not allowed by their guardian or elder to go out of the home and cover a long distance, because she has no masculine power and cannot fight with others for their own need. The evolution of words and language makes a great revolution in the theory of evolution. But the point is that experts in biology do not give any importance to it, maybe there is less space for the rejection of males in language. Still today no one said that women cannot talk, mostly it is said that women cannot sit quite. Male is preferred over females within society.

4.4 The Difference in Sexuality in Languages

Language is a field in which the difference between males and females can be seen very easily. From thousands of years ago, this topic remains under debate the words which end in

proper tense or noun will fit into masculine or feminine. Every country has its meanings regarding its language. First of all this discussion started between the Greek philosophers and Aristotle was the first person who discussed it. According to Aristotle a sentence which ends with masculine means a very active person and which ends with feminine means a woman who suffers from many problems. The experts in languages state that difference between males and females is not judged based on language. According to FisaGoras same use of language for both males and females can make problems. The idea of Aristotle about the meanings of masculine and feminine attained great fame. Grimmer states that masculine means a source by which we understand the nature of anything and feminine means the phenomenon in which we understand tolerance in someone. Masculine is associated with stone and feminine is associated with a mountain. Italian philosopher states in his book that as work is masculine the same woman is feminine, according to him god and fire are masculine but earth and water are feminine. In one manner things express their way and in another tolerance. Britain expert on language Herrus states in his book *Hermes* 1751 that many times words are considered masculine. Those words which show the efficiency of a thing about its working or appearance may be good or bad is masculine. On the other hand, the feminine that accepts obedience, collecting and producing, are more tolerant able, more beautiful, and have more mistakes like women. The noun is not the image of anything but in fact, it is the result of thinking of human language. It is the human who takes things in a masculine or feminine way according to his/her perception. Jakob set the standard for masculine and feminine which is very interesting. According to him, masculine is the first more active, strong, and flexible, and feminine comes on the second number which means a soft, fragile, person who bears the pain and accepts the things taking place. In the 19th century, language experts take noticed that all languages do have not a natural difference between masculine and feminine. There is no masculine and feminine in Turks, Chinese, and Mongol but in Africa, these patterns exist where the male is preferred more in language. France philosophers state that grouping is done based on power and weakness, more powerful animals are masculine and less powerful are feminine. At the end of the 18th century, the first time women's equal rights and education were demanded. It is considered that women are the good protector of language. Marriage is how both male and female adopts each other languages. In Pakistan, differences exist in language for both sexes.

4.5 Women and History

German feminist says that my history books tell a lie, they said that there was no existence of mine. In history, women exist but in those patterns set by men. Our whole history revolves around men not women. If women come into history then their roles and character are set by men. In Greek, they take the topic of war as a discussion where males perform bravely while women stay at home. The person who does not take part in the war was considered a male having women characteristics. Therefore history prefers males over females and every work which includes power relates to males. If women don't take part in daily life then there will be no progress for her in history. In history, women have had no status of respect and dignity but it was taken as an image in which you take pity other times you hate her, and sometimes you ignore her. It is a fact that when our history starts males dominant over the whole society and women's status was very down in society. There was no equality for women in society and due to inequality, it became easier for a male to use women for his benefit, because for your benefit or you can sacrifice for your less valuable thing. In history it was a tradition when you have no good relations with any tribe and you want to friendship with that tribe then the tribe gave the girl to another tribe and make friends with each other. There was

another case in which the loser tribe gives their girl to the winner and the winner feudal feels proud that he has the girl of the loser party. Marriage was the easiest way in which disputes were solved. In the past Rajput families gave their daughters to Akbar to attain the Mughal family name. After the sacrifice women go behind the scene. In all those actions or works there is no benefit for women but all are in the favour of men. Women's status was not uplifting but the male was praised all the time and his status was uplifted. Our history does not matter if African or Asia women were used for the benefit of males. In history, women were discussed as the loot that is delivered between soldiers after the war. They were given as a slave and the master can treat them as he wants. It was a tradition in the Rajput family that when they saw that they are losing the war they killed their women for the protection of their honour. That time people praise men not women because he protects their honour. When a women's importance will be like an entity or commodity then every wealthy man tries to buy her for his needs and desires. The reason behind the war between countries is women. For the whole of history, war is seen as a symptom of bravery that is associated with masculinity and peace is attached to a female. If women perform all the time well but single time if she doesn't then society associates with her that she cannot perform well. Women just gain fame in the status of mother in history because she gives birth to children which are mostly male and those males make history. As a prostitute women fulfil the desires of male that's why history ignore her. When any nation progresses there is no name of a female but when it declines female name came automatically and she distracts the ruler with her activities. According to history's point of view, there are two reasons behind the misfortune of a nation first is the freedom of women and second is their interference in political issues. For the whole of history, women have had no status, she is a commodity which is used by male.

4.6 Women and Armed Forces

The world of armed forces is very sensitive and dangerous. In this world, people sit together with very calm minds and talk about weapons, atomic war, and other things related to atomic policies. People gave their strong opinions, point out weak things, and try to convince others with their arguments. They have no danger, pain, and trouble in the discussion of these types of issues. Most males are taken into the armed forces because they can perform their duties well. In armed forces weapons, even missiles are formed on the principle of penetration. When France was attacked by missiles all the wholes that appeared were named based on women's organs. Mostly the people who belong to this profession are very friendly, they appreciate their weapons and missiles. It is a reality that people appreciate their close things with love and affection, the same situation takes place in the armed forces they deal their weapons as their children appreciate them with love and affection. There is a relationship between male sexual power and weapons. To overcome their aggression and stress levels they treat their weapons like a woman. Being a part of the atomic war meaning to lose your feminine characteristics and abusing yourself. Un unmarried women have very much importance in atomic war because they take their weapons and job as an energetic thing which make them more active and the reason behind their progress is only women. America plays the role of the father in the atomic war who empowers others or sometimes talks with love but in every condition shows its maleness. One time they said that when small countries become atomic power then they don't know how to use them and parents know better what their children want to do. To decrease their stress level they use sexual language and it is very common among them, they feel relaxed while using this language. Males feel superior in the armed forces women are taken less because of their bodies and emotionality. By using daily routine language war masters feel relaxed, they attach the names of their weapons on daily household or groceries. By using this type of language our attention can be diverted from

human life, it is easy for them to make friends with these words because by using these friendly words they feel relaxed and things normal. In the armed forces, weapons are important, not humans. Women are powerful in just the status of the mother when she gave birth to a child and mostly male children. The Male wants to take the power of producing children from her, he wants to combine birth and destruction. There are many chances of producing children during atomic bomb production. People think that a women's only work is to raring and care for a child in her womb and the main work of giving knowledge is done by the male. From Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs we kept the names of small children and fat men. When analysis of bombs is done then they prefer a male child in place of a female child. In 1952 when the testing of hydrogen bombs take place scientists pray for sons and not for daughters. The atomic world is an imaginary world that lessens the value of destruction and shows that a new world is going to take place in the future. The world of atomic war is materialistic. In this world people feel that they are superior because they do have not emotional attachments like women, they don't show their feelings for anything. Science is freedom of knowledge. Women and emotions both are unimportant like religion in the armed forces. They attached their god's name to their weapons. Atomic scientists are claiming for new religion or announcement of being god that they have occupied god power. But when we talk about the male perspective in a war they feel relaxed by using sexual language. In wartime, the gestures and wording consist of sexuality and they do not go on to their physical meaning in society. The language which is discussed here is not spoken by uneducated people but by the armed forces' most civilized people.

5 Conclusion

We are living in a world where materialistic and non-materialistic women's demands collapse with each other. We have to know who are the materialistic men and who are the materialistic women. The people who want to rule over the whole society are mostly males belonging to the middle class or economic class. The books of history are mostly written by a male. It is very difficult for a woman to change the past she can make her future good. Now a day to some extent women are understanding their problems and those problems which were taken normal are political rights now. Present-day women have no issue that men will leave them or that another woman will take her husband but she is in anger that why only males have the power to leave her when he wants, and it is a revolutionary thing that is taking place in women. Sociologist observes women as a subject who shows obedience and acceptance through their silence, which means they accept their defeat. In 1975 society was very worried about women. Now we recognize that they were worried about their past and their political-economic life. Here our society adopts European practices but they don't want to disperse their society and they will stand up for the protection of their religion. Westerners mostly take pardah as a weak point of Muslim society and critique that due to pardah women cannot perform their duties and enter a public place. According to a survey report due to the emerging trend of getting an education for women, the trend of early marriage is ending. In society males and females are kept separate which lays stress on early marriage. The concept of early child marriage limited the life of women and it is seen that the women of every society want to be a mother and wives. According to an old fertility survey report, the trend of second marriage mostly in girls takes place when they got married before twenty or lived in a village or have less access towards education and the reason behind breaking families is education. Those girls who got higher education want to compete with their male partners in the public sphere and want to be more promoted. The materialistic world is true in this sense that education of women and male economic status has ended the discrimination between males and females. Late marriage brings higher education to women. The trend of education

is becoming common because of the migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. Through the study of history, we came to know that male in the name of cultural patterns wants to control women. In every society, Muslim women live in different ways and every society has different impacts on them.

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