



The Social And Sexual Significant lesbianism in the Modern Society

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Abstract

Mr. Dattani's Literture (Plays) are set in contemporary society. He has examined issues of gender inequality, social exclusion, fundamentalism and the impact of dreaded disease HIV/AIDS on people's mind. What distinguishes him from other playwrights is the courage of conviction in depicting the innovative themes like portrayal of sex preferences by man and women which were until recently considered to be a taboo in Indian society. His realistic portrayal of human nature evokes both sympathy and empathy in the minds of readers.

Key words: Impact of Society, gender inequality, social exclusion.

I ask myself what I have got and at I am and what I'm not. In this play, Mr. Dattani examines the psychology of persons who are by nature 'gays' or 'bisexual' and the desire on the part of some of them to turn heterosexual. This may seem to be an unusual theme in the Indian context. But in real life such characters do exist. Hence, Mr. Dattani has re-created the characters in their own situations. To see in literture (play) on stage is to feel how these characters turn their inside out.' Mr. Dattani has hinted at the need for same-sex marriage in the Indian context Do the Needful, a family play, is built on the theme of 'gay' relationship and as a result the marital relationship is given a new twist to suit both the wife and the husband. This story though appears to be comical reminds us the abnormal behavior of a young couple who are willing to pursue their pleasures intently outside marriage. Sally Avens has rightly analysed the play in "A Note on the Play" in the following words:

In 1996 Mr. Dattani was commissioned to write his first radio play for the BBC; the result was the somewhat unconventional 'romantic comedy',

For me, this was the joy of working on Mr. Dattanis script: his writing, whilst taking on a conventional form and being readily accessible to an audience, never fails to challenge and surprise. And whilst the play may be set in India within the conventions of 'arranged marriages', its wider themes are universal. A British audience found it easy to empathize with a gay man being forced to live his life within the norms of a heterosexual society or a young woman eager to prove her independence and break free from her parents.

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Some case studies in Dattanis literature (plays)-

Responding to a matrimonial advertisement Mr. Chandrakant Patel and his wife come to Bangalore to see Lata Gowda, the daughter of Devraj Gowda and Prema Gowda for marriage to their son, Alpesh. The Gowdas are desperate to marry their daughter at the earliest. This is evident from their following conversations:

Prema Gowda. Do you think it will work with these Patel people? Devraj Gowda. Who knows? Prema Gowda. They seem desperate. Devraj Gowda. We are desperate. Prema Gowda. He is thirty-plus and divorced. Devraj Gowda. She is twenty-four and notorious.

Since it will be an inter-marriage the mother is apprehensive. And moreover, Alpesh is a divorcee. Devraj knows the nature of his daughter and therefore, wants her to get married--the sooner the better. The conversations between Patils and Gowdas reveal a good deal of things about the society in the present context.

Though Alpesh and Lata got married at the instance of their families, they never shared their bed. Lata is involved with a terrorist. Salim and Alpesh have homosexual relationship with Trilok. The title, "Do the Needful" is ironical but appropriate as Alpesh and Lata managed to go in their own way notwithstanding their marriage. This is a typical family play in which parents show their concern for their children's marriage. In India arranged marriage still continues to be the norm, in spite of our changed attitude to love and marriage in the face of globalization.

Love marriages are slowly getting the better of arranged marriages in India, as the joint family gives way to unitary family thanks to the impact of the West and resultant independence of the younger generation in the matter of choosing their career and life patterns. This play reminds us of the growing helplessness of the parents to control their children from going their own ways. The result is evident in the characters of Lata and Alpesh.

Thirty Days in September is also a family play on sexual guilt and obsession with sensual gratification. Mala, the protagonist and her mother Shanta were exploited physically by Mala's maternal uncle in their infancy. Later on Mala became physically vulnerable and sought the company of men for sensual gratification."

Her mother did not stop her from doing this. In the meanwhile a young man Deepak came and proposed to Mala which the latter turned down. Mala's father had left her and her mother long ago. Mala holds her mother responsible for all that has happened to them. The play begins with Mala talking to an imagined counselor which brings the dilemma in her mind to light. She says, I don't know how to begin.... Today is the 30th of September...2001 and my name is...I don't think I want to say my name...I

am sorry.... I know it is my entire fault really.... It must be. I must have asked for it.... It's not anybody's fault, except my own. Sometimes I wish that my mother...

Deepak comes to Shanta and tells her about what has gone wrong between Mala and him. He sincerely wants to marry her and Shanta too approves of it.

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