

Patriarchal and Misogynistic Attitude towards Women: Depiction of Indian Society in Girish Karnad's *Nagamandala*

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“Whatever is beautiful on earth,
Half of these have been done by women and half by men”.

— *Rabindra Nath Tagore*

Rabindranath Tagore once wrote these lines to mean the indispensability of woman with that of man in the formation of society; although Tagore's advocacy for the equal rights of man and woman has time and again been resounded in his epoch-making works. Right from the beginning of the civilization, woman has constituted a better-half with man in all affairs, starting from human-creation to the issues of contemporary concern; but man tortures that woman in many ways and ignores her contribution towards society to keep his dominance at the top.

Literary and mythological texts have showered ample of ignominious pictures of injustice, inequality and mortification against women by men down the ages, though there are examples of mythical figures, who paid respect to the women and advocated for the right of women with that of men. The women faced tough time and had to fight hard sometimes to prove their chastity, sometimes to save their chastity and sometimes to get rid of severe public humiliation. In spite of Lord Rama's unfathomable love for Sita, he was forced to dwindle his love for a certain period and ask her to go for the chastity test, paying due regards to the doubts of local people and Gurus of Ayodhya regarding her chastity. Although Lord Rama realized that people's demand for chastity test is quite unjust yet he had to accept it being an ideal ruler. But an inevitable question, which rises from the issue, is that the then galaxy of intellectuals asked Sita as she was a woman, keeping man apart from this purview.....

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