

The Power in Patriarchy and Politics of Vijay Tendulkar's *Kanyadaan*

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Abstract

Since man-woman relationship informs the basic structure of a society, mutual cooperation, love, understanding and reciprocity are expected from both sides. However, this mutual relationship degenerates into power as one, i.e., man tries to dominate the other, i.e., a woman. Consequently such a society, based exclusively on power-system, always relegates women to subservient roles. Male patriarchal society, influenced by socially invested power in itself, never conforms to the positive traits that a woman is associated with. It denies them any status of human beings. A woman is meted out illtreatment not only in her household but also in larger public sphere. As Marlyn French notes, "The personal is the political...the value structure of a culture is identical in both public and private areas, that what happens in bedroom, and vice-versa, and that mythology notwithstanding, at present the same sex is in control of both places" (442). Earlier, women thought that their oppression in the home was the result of their fate but later on a consciousness dawned on them that the gender-specific discrimination was a part of the larger power system which operates from everywhere to subdue women. The subordination and devaluation of women, based on exaggerated biological gender difference, resulted in the binaries of male superiority and female inferiority, created by patriarchal power system.....

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