

## Reflection of motherhood in Sarah Joseph's Inside Every Women Writer

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Research Article

## Reflection of motherhood in Sarah Joseph's Inside Every Women Writer

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Sarah Joseph is a renowned Malayalam writer, orator and activist. She has been at the forefront of the women's movement in Kerala. She is known for her ground breaking novel "Alahayude Penmakal" (Alaha's Daughters). Her works reflect how women is mandated to construct her reality by naturalising oppression.

Inside Every Women Writer is a short story written by Sarah Joseph. The protagonist a women writer is ready to leave her home after understanding how she was condemned to conform to stereotypes. She felt uneasy, unable to breathe, and crushed at her own house. If she wants to proceed with her career she needs to find peace. So she informs her husband about the departure and get ready to move herself into her aunt's house

Like any other women the protagonist is expected to be in the yoke of domesticity and oppressive cultural forces. She really doesn't have a place of her own. She was completely dependent on her husband Purushothaman. Her identity is limited to being a mother of her children and as a wife. Even her writings were about "women characters who made flower offerings at the same feet, who kept shedding ears endlessly, and he went on sobbing, sitting behind bolted doors with their heads bent low." This kind of stuff is what her husband wants her to write. The love story she wrote was mostly based on Radha- krishna Romance. And the chemistry she created made her fiction a reality for readers. But the love she experienced in her life is totally different from that. Women's ideas, capabilities and imaginations are ignored and snubbed by the gender- blinded society. The prospects of this gender construction, blind the society and the society remains in the darkness of this ignorance or snobbishness.

"It is time for revelations of my experience of love as a lump of phlegm spat on to my face, and of motherhood as an iron chain crushing my neck" .It is evident that the kind of pressure she had to put up with when writing, was there even when she was raising her children. Motherhood wasn't a pleasant experience for her. She was forced to be a mother of stereotypes and expectations. One can easily conclude that just like the characters she created out of social compulsions in her writing, the children she raised can be patriarchal to their chore. A boy of

such upbringing will be chauvinistic and girls she mother will be firmly subjugated to men in her life.

Even mother of the protagonist brought her up adhering to patriarchal expectations. “the Panchaloha ring I wore on my ankle had sunk into my flesh. My mother had got this ring specially made for me when I was born”. The ring symbolises the patri-centric norms deeply embedded into her psyche.

Now she wants to write something creative and truthful. For that she needs to recreate herself. And she believes she can only do that with an isolation from all the social expectations. She wants to go to Aunt Mable’s house. “Aunt Mable’s house has no walls. It is built of thin, beautiful, mysterious screens. It has no grilles or bolts. Only nerves. And throbbing veins and arteries.”

One can understand from the description that Aunt Mable’s house is an imaginary place. Protagonist see that space as her own, a true reflection of her identity. She will be able to nurture herself into the writer she wants to be. Then she will be able to exclusively write for herself. She says for the complete recreation she needs separation from her own children. It will be painful and her “spirit will wander over the waters like an orphaned lullaby” .

“If I can curl up in the primordial darkness and silence of my mother’s womb, I can bring out my words in great secrecy.

She use the image off motherhood here to narrate her thirst to write something original. Though it actually talks about her art, it also reflects on motherhood. If a mother wants to raise a child out of social patterns she has to give birth in secrecy. And they have to be born in an atmosphere which is not stunted by the patriarchal stereotypes. Change need to begin before her birth, when she was curled up in her mother’s womb. Then only she will be out of those believes and expectations completely, and will be able to be an original mother free from outside pressures

‘Now I walk with an absolutely free movement of my limbs. My hands touch the horizon and come back. A winged wind stirs free the strands of my hair and the folds of my clothes. My hair unlooses itself, soars and touches the sky, and my skirt whirls round in a wide, wide circle and covers the earth.’

The act of leaving her house is an open declaration of her freedom, her individuality. She breaks the year old submissions that were folding her and she resists against the patriarchal norms which creates obstacle in fulfilling her dreams. She unveils the chained identity and ready to create the most true poetry. Doesn’t that say she is also ready to be an independent Mother? But as Aunt Mable’s House, this independence is just a desire.

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### **Reference**

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