

# DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN KAMALA DAS'S POETRY

Mansha Ashraf<sup>1</sup>, Sumaya Firdous<sup>2</sup>

*1Department of English, SRM University, Sonipat, Haryana (India)*

*2Department of English, B.P.S Mahila Vishwavidhyalaya, Sonipat, Haryana (India)*

## ABSTRACT

*Human relationship is a social alliance with other people or person through interaction process. It's a bond between each other for needs, cooperation, trust and brotherhood. Human relationship is a social contract in which a person is interdependent to other in a society under the set of behavioral rules imposed on them. A healthy relationship is determined by smooth maintenance of peace and harmony from both the sides. Emotions are a key factor that establishes the bond of relationship through affection. Kamala Das belonging to upper Nair caste of Kerala by her writing has challenged the sentimentality as well as the hollowness of human relationship. The failure to attain the warmth of relationship from her family members triggers her tragedy in life. She was the first female voice in India to write frankly about her personal experiences. She took a bold step to analyze the man-woman relationship through her writing. Basically a Keralite right from her birth she decided to adopt English as a better way of describing her pain and afflictions.*

**KEYWORDS- INDIANNESS, MAN-WOMAN RELATIONSHIP, PATRIARCHY, REBELLION, SELF IDENTITY**

## 1.INTRODUCTION

Human relationship is an important characteristic of mankind. It is a broader term based on the two pillars- one is 'man' itself and the other is 'society' in which he lives. Man is a social being and needs to communize with other members of the society for moral, spiritual and intellectual development. In a society man develops a relationship with others for fundamental needs, cooperation and on humanitarian grounds. Every relation initiates with the interrelation between man and woman. Man-woman relationship is the main and central point to develop a society. It forms the core of existence and is considered sacred in all the religions giving equal status to both at the same time. Man-woman relationship is considered a close connection between two souls as well as between two hearts of the individuals giving a purpose to social life. Human relationship is a network of bonds with friends, neighbors, and relatives etc. in natural surroundings to develop a meaningful contact.

After Independence many developing writers brought this relationship into consideration through literature which became possible only by attaining education particularly in English giving women gender a purpose to

find their place of existence. Literature comes up with emerging social issues prevalent in a society that time. Women writers also brought a variety of thematic concerns trying to mark their place against the gender inequalities against women. With the introduction of this distinctive form of concerns a new trend was incorporated in literature.

Kamala Das has largely contributed to the development of Indian English poetry. Her works are totally her own experiences of life where she exposes the dominance of male gender. All her poetry is nothing but the pent-up emotions inhibited through her writings. Her poetic collection can be easily divided into three sections- poems about the nostalgia for her ancestral house and grandmother's affliction towards her, second the concerns of man-woman relationship and lastly her love poems.

In this paper we will discuss briefly about the man-woman relationship that has acquired an eminent role in relation with sociological perspectives. Kamala Das failure in achieving a sincere relationship all through her life weakens her soul and crushes her from inside. In a Nair community women were meant only for domestic works and lack freedom of speech. They marry their daughters early considering them only a showcase of their belongings. Kamala Das was made aware of all the rituals and customs prevailing in their clan by her grandmother with whom she spends her childhood. Das was having a bold view about her father who was very affectionate towards her family and children. She took him of having qualities of a gentleman and wanted her husband to be of the same caliber. But the repulsive behavior between her father and mother left her with harsh childhood memories. She used to write sorrowful stories at a very tender age of dolls that lost their heads. She writes;

“If my desires were lotuses in a pond, closing their petals at dusk and opening out at dawn once upon a time, they were totally dead, rotten and dissolved and for them there was no more to be a re-sprouting. The pond had cleared itself of all growth”. (My Story, 209)

Kamala Das has dealt keenly with man-woman relationship in order to frame the individuality of a woman. She wanted to free woman from the ‘fit in’ category to make them aware of their responsibilities in a society. Her poetry is an image of an unfortunate woman surviving in a patriarchal male dominated era. She desires of a loving and caring husband but ended up in compromising with him. Many efforts were made by her to change her relationship in a positive way but failed radically. She took refuge in books, music, friends and her children to escape her dreadful surroundings. She quotes;

“The strong man's technique is

Always the same, he serves his love in lethal doses,

For, love is Narcissus at the water's edge, haunted

By its own lonely face, and yet it must seek at last

An end, a pure, total freedom, it must will the mirrors” (The Old Playhouse)

Memories were the only purpose left with her to travel the odds of life. Her memories help her to recollect the emotions of past and present to project her real self. It is the only source for creative writers to capture their experiences of life. In every other man she met she searched for the father like love, compassion and warmth but every door was closed submitting her to adjust with her husband. Nurturing in the hands of parental home she needed her husband to care and supervise her in the same manner. But her husband had the masculine ego confining her to a single room by taking aid of her emotional instability.

In order to search for her real identity she showed her strength against the male supremacy in which women are bound by the concept of relationship. Through her poetry she had explained women not to subdue themselves to the carnal desires of men and use of their bodies leaving the soul behind. She protests against the emotions and feelings of women tied in certain close relations and want them to come out of it. In her poem 'Glass' she mocks the fragility of women folk confined to the service done for the entire family. She symbolizes women with a broken glass left lonely and rejected. She holds men responsible for the slavish treatment given to the women because of their ego and negligence.

"I went to him for half an hour

As pure woman, pure misery

Fragile glass, breaking

Crumbling....

The house was silent in the heat

Only the rafters creaking" (Glass)

In Indian society patriarchal issues has downtrodden the status of woman treating them as a passive object. Man- woman relationship mainly determines the position of woman in the society facing the issues to reconstruct their selfhood. Gandhi was having his views about the role being played by woman in a social life and the way in which she is treated in a society. He needed woman in every spheres of life including politics, economic and social structures, education and many others. He writes "to me this domestic slavery of women is a sample of our barbarism. It is high time that our womanhood was freed from the incubus. Domestic work ought not to take the whole of a woman's time". (Kuppuswamy, 273)

## II.CONCLUSION

Kamala Das focuses on man-woman relationship offers women a distinctive authority to celebrate their courage and existence. Kamala Das concept to fight for the dignity and honor to attain freedom is a difficult job leaving aside the values and traditions deep rooted in one's mind. Her use of words and vocabulary is quite rich conveying the reality and image of women in a natural and Indian style. Her poetry is regarded as poetry of protest and a new beginning for the women poets in India.

## REFERENCES

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