

Virginia Woolf: As a Feminist Writer

Mrs. Kamini Agarwal (Research Scholar)

DPBS College Anupshahar Bulandshahar

U.P. India

Virginia Woolf is considered one of the most famous and prominent novelist, feminist and modernist writer of 20th century. She mostly concentrated on intellectual life of woman, she did not want to show the women superior to men, instead she thought that both sexes only belong to different nature but we should consider them equally. Woolf used stream of consciousness in her work. She did work as a feminist also, Women's intellectual, profession and for money. She said that if women want. To do something in her life, she comes out of the old-age prejudice that prevails in the society and also within women themselves.

Keywords- Feminist, stream of consciousness, prejudice, intellectual.

Virginia Woolf was a feminist. She was not satisfied with the rules of society, which was totally patriarchal society, there was no place for women, women only considered the angel of the house; it means that women only did household work and they didn't have rights to do anything.

Woolf talked about women's own room, own money so that they can do something in her life and not depend on their husband for anything.

One of her work she mentioned William Shakespeare (one of the greatest dramatist of 16th century), she says that if William Shakespeare had a sister, she never succeeded like her brother Shakespeare, because neither women had money nor room to write anything, or if she wrote something, no one read that work which was written by a woman.

She said that if a woman wants to succeed in their life, she will have to make a road for themselves first. She comes out of the old prejudices that women prevail within as well. They will remove all the obstacles which they face in their jobs, their dreams and in their profession.

Woolf says that our society expects women to be charming and to be polite, while saying about this Virginia Woolf says that women must charm and be polite but they must tell lies

if they are to succeed.

Feminism in Profession for Women

The angel of the House is the essay "Profession for Women" is written by Virginia Woolf. It was a speech given by her when she was called to the 'Women's Service League'. Her main focus was in this essay was to bring awareness to the obstacles women face in their jobs. In this essay she talks about that women will have to become aware about their life, their future and many of things. The God did not create the woman to please others or men, they also have their own place in the society. If women want to become independent and want to do something in their life, they first of all come out of the old age prejudice that women only born for household works and to please men. If they want to become successful in their life she get rid of all the prejudice and if need to tell lies for their success, tell.

Make her own room, your own house, own money.

In this essay she says that when she is working on her writing, many of Phantasms she has to face, as she mentions in "The Angel of the House", this angel prevents her from fully writing what she really wants, since it persistently tells her what this society is expecting from her. Our society

expects from a woman that she wrote only those things that were not against the society or to them as well. She says that I mean by the angel in the house that women must intensely sympathetic, she was immensely charming. She was utterly unselfish. Woolf says that a woman sacrifice herself daily, if she is cooking in the kitchen, she will take it at last, if there is no food or finished, she can live without food for a day. In short she was so constituted that she never had a mind or wish of her own, but always expectations from her that she always sympathise with the mind and wishes for others.

Woolf wrote very fiercely for women rights specially about their future. She should make her own house, own money for become independent.

Quotation : Woolf on feminism

"A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction "(in A room of One's Own)

"Anything may happen when womanhood has ceased to be a protected occupation."

Virginia Woolf, (A Room of One's Own)

"I told you in the course of this paper that Shakespeare had a sister; but do not look for her in Sir Sidney Lee's life of the poet. She died young—alas, she never wrote a word. She lies buried where the omnibuses now stop, opposite the Elephant and Castle. Now my belief is that this poet who never wrote a word and was buried at the cross-roads still lives. She lives in you and in me, and in many other women who are not here to-night, for they are washing up the dishes and putting the children to bed. But she lives; for great poets do not die; they are continuing presences; they need only the opportunity to walk among us in the flesh. This opportunity, as I think, it is now coming within your power to give her. For my belief is that if we live another century or so- I am talking of the common life which is the real life and not of the little separate lives which we live as individuals- and have five hundred a year each of us and rooms of our own; if we have the habit of freedom and the courage to write exactly

what we think; if we escape a little from the common sitting-room and see human beings not always in their relation to each other but in relation to reality; and the sky, too, and the trees or whatever it may be in themselves; if we look past Milton's bogey, for no human being should shut out the view; if we face the fact, for it is a fact, that there is no arm to cling to, but that we go alone and that our relation is to the world of reality and not only to the world of men and women, then the opportunity will come and the dead poet who was Shakespeare's sister will put on the body which she has so often laid down. Drawing her life from the lives of the unknown who were her forerunners, as her brother did before her, she will be born. As for her coming without that preparation, without that effort on our part, without that determination that when she is born again she shall find it possible to live and write her poetry, that we cannot expect, for that would be impossible. But I maintain that she would come if we worked for her, and that so to work, even in poverty and obscurity, is worthwhile."

(Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own).

A Room of One's s own is considered to be one of the first feminist essays. It was written by Virginia Woolf and published in 1929 which was based on a lecture.

In this work (A Room of One's Own) Woolf also addressed the condition of women in the society and in literature. In this work she included the underinvestment on women education and lack of women voices telling their own stories because society expect to women to write something in favour of them. Woolf emphasis on women's voices and rights as same as a men. She says that to write fiction and to become independent writer, women need to her own room for writing, so that they can become independent and become a successful fiction writer.

Virginia Woolf suffered from depression; it is also consider that she was suffering from bipolar disorder. She faced many difficulties and troubles in her life. She lost her mother only in 13 years old age, her brother and

father also.

Woolf was molested by her half brother when she was only 6 year old and later by her brother George when she was only thirteen years old. He continue molested her till her adolescence and into her adulthood. These all things impacted her mind a lot and at that time it's no possible to talk about this type of tabbo subjects. All these things influence her to write for woman and to speak about own self. Woolf says that in ninetieth century, being born as a men is an opportunity to get education whereas women was far away to get this opportunity, therefore she never get opportunity to do something for own self. This woolf concludes,. is the lack of women writers. Even if there was some women writers was exists that time they wrote, but they didn't get same popularity as men writers. One of the Victorian Age woman writer Mary Ann Evans, who published her work as a psydonym George Eliot, because at that time she is well known by her male name, because at that time women were excluded from intellectual circle. Woolf wants to get them intellectual freedom.

Woolf emphasize that women get a equality and opportunities to write literature work (fiction, novel..) in the society and she urged to women to write on any topic ,even about matters which might seem trivial at first.

Woolf says that when she became famous after publication of A Room of One's Own, she stopped to taken money from her aunt. She became satisfied and not hated to the men because now she is not depend on then anymore. Woolf cane to know the world now more rationally and more think about themselves. She now can describe own words, own opinion and can raise her voice without any bitterness and fear.

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Woolf even says that financial independence is more important than the rights of vote which had passed in 1918 in England.

If we conclude all the thoughts of Woolf as a Feminist Writer we can say that she only wants to equality in the society for a woman. She says that if women will succeed in their life and get equal opportunity to write anything whatever in her mind, no restriction in her writing; it is the true freedom of women in the society. Along with she also says that for it women first come out all the prejudice whatever she has within. She come out in the angel of the house and then do something and become intellectually strong and put a pen in her pen and become independent.

Woolf also says that she don't have any anger or bitterness for men, she only wants to equality in the society as a men have. Woolf says that both sexes is same when writing.

If women become independent she can fight with many troubles which she face in their life and raise her own voice to against any violence and molestation which was common at that time.

As a Feminist Writer Woolf was the first who keep the foundation of other women writers also, who followed the ideas of woolf.

Simone de Beauvoir and Helen cixous belong to second wave of feminism also believe that it's essential for women to become an author as well as present in the stories themselves.

Woolf says that he sacrifice that is expected from the women is stereotypes; they need to come out of angel of the house and to discover her intellectual potential.