

GRANDPARENT KINSHIP IN KAVERY NAMBISAN'S ON WINGS OF BUTTERFLIES : AN OVERVIEW

H.Suba, Reg.No: 18214224012003, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam (Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University) Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu - 627012

Dr. M.P.Anuja, Assistant Professor of English & Research Supervisor, Research Centre in English, Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam,(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University), Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India - 627012

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to bring out the concept of grandparent kinship in Kavery Nambisan's *On Wings of Butterflies*. Nambisan's writings give more importance on the ideas of women struggle, nature's support for women and grandparents role in the families are the main ideas of her novels. *On Wings of Butterflies* is the story based on the theme of exploitation and revolution of women in the society. It also highlights the importance of grandparents in the family. Indian culture gives many valuable things to the people to move forward in their life. The most important thing is respecting and protecting elders in the family. Hence grandparents play very important role in the family. They are considered as a strong pillars of every family and their kinship with family members increases the strength and hope among the family members. The unconditional affection of grandparents and their role to support the family matters are also highlights in the novels of Kavery Nambisan. Megha Dasi an old age widow longing for her daughter's daughter in Howrah to pour her love and care towards her granddaughter is the main focus of this paper.

KEY WORDS: *Kinship, Exploitation, Revolution, Affection, Respect.*

Indian society gives more importance and respect towards the elderly people. Recent day people are not in the stage of respecting or realizing the importance of grandparents, instead they ignore and reject them from their lives. This results in the growth of many old age homes and their kinship with the family is totally washed out by many people in the society. In India majority of the people give more respect to their grandparents. Everyone in the universe has evolved flourished and gained strength and learn moral lesson from their forerunners. Indian society is considered as the land of spirituality where large number of people followed many traditions, but they are same the with aim of worshiping their grandparents. Every family get their cultural basement from their ancestors and they are considered as the spinal cord of the family. In ancient time joint family system is strongly rooted in many places and it provides moral support to the family and the society. Many generations of people living together to

shared their works, cooking and household chores, but in recent days the impact of technology, urbanisation and westernization ideas has changed majority of people to shifted over to nuclear family system. This results in the neglect of grandparents from the families and paved the way for old age homes and their last part of the life is pushed into a miserable condition. This paper aims to bring out the miserable condition of grandparents and their kinship in the novel *On Wings of Butterflies*.

Dr. Kavery Nambisan is the novelist from Karnataka. She has written numbers of award-winning stories and novels. *On Wings of Butterflies* is the story of young victim called Evita, who has worked hard to bring refreshing strength to women in the society through her organization Women or Women. This novel shows lights on women suppression and grandparent kinship in the society.

Megha Dasi is an old aged-woman from Howrah to settle her last stage of her life in God's place called Vrindaban. Megha Dasi is a wife of a fisherman and leads her life beautiful life in Howrah with her six sons and one daughter. Megha Dasi lost her husband at her thirty second year. Her life gets miserable due to the pathetic incident of her husband's death. All her sons want to chase her away from their life. "Thus began the horrors of slow starvation until Megha Dasi was skin, bone and vital organs. She realized that her future was non-existent unless she took charge of it. And so she asked her sons to let her to go to the land of widows" (OWB 124). The old age Megha has reached Vrindaban and takes her shelter near Baanke Behari temple. She also occupies her place near the river banks in the sides of Kasi Ghats. She spends her leisure times under the very old Banyan tree. After so many struggles, Megha has found a permanent place at the back side of the dharamsala. She also pays monthly rent of twenty five rupees to that place. She undergoes many sufferings and pains in her old age and also she sings songs regularly for god in order to earn her income to survive in the society. Megha Dasi takes her job as a singer in the temple of Baanke Behari.

Not bhajans to Krishna or any other's god, but snatches to songs strung together from her childhood, sung in an off-key, pebbly voice. Visitors to the temple tossed coins into the empty farex tin she had placed before her. In two hours she earned enough to buy vegetables for the day (OWB 124-125).

Megha Dasi manages her old stage lonely without the support of her family. Her whole part of her old age is surrender towards god and she also helps the local people through her earnings and by giving many moral advises. "Megha Dasi was different. She had the unseeing eye with which in momentary flashes she saw into the future" (OWB 127). Though Megha Dasi is thrown away from her family, her miracle power helps her to foresee the future and also

helps her to survive in the sphere. Hence, Megha's old stage is completely depends on her own side instead on others, but her affection and longingness for her granddaughter's memories gives her more agony in her mind. With the power of wonders Megha Dasi has become the famous celebrity in her place. Many political people, business personalities, film actors are trying to get her appointments but Megha always longing for the love and affection from her family side. Many people work hard to meet Megha Dasi but only few get their chance to meet her in person, among one is Evita. Evita is a young and energetic woman who has her main dream to open an organization for all suppressive women in the society. "She told Megha about the women's movement, and in the morning before she left, asked her if she would attend the convention. 'please mataji'" (OWB 128). Megha Dasi explains her painful past memories to Evita. Megha Dasi wants show her unconditional affection towards her granddaughter but that is challenging task for her in her old age. Again, she recollects everything from her memories, Megha Dasi has a lovable daughter called Torulata. Her marriage life gives her various pressures and takes her to take the second marriage.

Torulata has a wonderful girl child named as Jyotika but unfortunately she lost her mother and her whole early part of her life comes under painful world just like her grandmother's old stage. The death new of her daughter made more pain in Megha's mind and it pushes her to takes her journey towards Howrah. Megha Dasi's kinship towards her grand daughter transforms, the Z-shaped Megha into powerful woman. The betrayal of her sons and her miserable situation gives more confidence to Megha to shifted into the next level. Hence, the fortune-teller Megha takes her idea to search for her grand daughter. "Megha Dasi searched the slums till dusk and then exhausted sat on her box and mattress to watch people return from work and get back to their homes" (134). After long struggle, Megha Dasi has found her grandbaby girl with full enthusiasm, though she is not in good health condition. She has her chance to meet her grand daughter after seven decades, through jyotika's paintings Megha Dasi has a chance to recognizes her own grand child girl. "You are the lightning-touched daughter of my daughter!" she cried and hugged the girl to her breast" (135). The trauma of Megha Dasi is vanished by getting back her grand daughter in Howrah. Jyotika is very good painter and she always draws her goals and ideas through her paintings. Megha Dasi as fortune-teller predicts that her grand daughter's life will turns goods with this art "You said only I had the power to change my future" (OWB 251). Hence, the kinship towards her grand child transforms everything in the life of Megha Dasi.

Evita, the protagonist of the novel, shows her love towards Megha Dasi and considered her as her grandmother. She has travelled more distance to find out her. "Megha Dasi was

delighted. ‘You found me! She cried, hugging Evita. She looked at Jyotika ,who was kneeling on the floor with her paints and at Evita. ‘How alike you are !’ she exclaimed joyfully” (OWB 190). Evita stays with Megha for three days in the slum area. Megha Dasi also shows her love towards Evita through cooking and giving ideas for her convention. Though Megha is not in a good health condition, she has travelled long distance to attend Evita’s convention to show her love and blessing. Megha Dasi always consider Evita as her grand daughter. On the big day of convention Megha ,the clean shaved old woman fulfills the wish of Evita. Basically old age people face various problems in their day to day life both mentally and physically. It is the duty of everyone to take care of their grandparents and elderly people in the family. Megha Dasi always believes in divine power of God, because of the god’s power, she has the stamina to find her grand child in her old age. The authors also gives more importance to the concepts of ancestors kinship in her novels.

Grandparents are the moral supporter for every one in the universe. Thus, it is duty for everyone to root out the system of the old age homes and work hard to safeguard the welfare of the grandparents in the society. Grandparents are the pillars for every family and they are best solution giver in the sphere. Hence ,it very importance to maintain the kinship with them and people should work hard to remove the subjugated place of the old age people in the society. It is very important to show respect and honour elderly persons in the society.

Works Cited

Dhawan.D.K. *Indian Society: Structure and change*. Swastik publications, 2012.

Kant , Kamal. *Indian Society And Culture* . Aadi Publications.2011.

Kuppuswamy,Ursula. *Women Religion and Traditions*. Signature Books International, 2012.

Nambisan, Kavery. *On Wings of Butterflies*. Penguin Books.2002.

Rath, Navaneeta. *Women in India: Past and Present. Women in India: A Search for Identity*. Abhijit publications,2012.