



Voice of Women's Identity In Munmun Ghosh's Unhooked

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Abstract

This novel also shows the desperation of the woman to conceive a child to continue the legacy of the family. Child bearing is considered as one of the sublime features of womanhood and religiously it is considered that without child-bearing, woman is incomplete in her duties. But Child bearing is also natural and it is not only in the hands of woman. The woman is not the machine to beget the child and apart from this, She has many duties to perform in her course of life.

In the male dominated and male oriented society, it is difficult for a woman to aspire her liberty especially in terms of establishing relationship with man. The traditional and conventional Indian society still does not provide much liberty to woman to think and feel freely. They are extremely guided by the orthodox and traditional norms and they are denied in their option and selection because these things are still not in their hands. The male dominated and male-oriented society impose difficulties and hindrances before them and still they are so many deprived condition, they have to fight hard for their survival in the vast of making their own choice. In such conflicting and devastative universe of human emotions and passions. With such mindset, Munmun Ghosh writes this novel in order to show the desire and wish of woman as a free spirit, not so complicated but smooth and easy creature aspiring for real human status. A critic writes about Unhooked in The Telegraph in these words:

Unhooked is an interesting take on courtship. The novel's spark lies in the nuances in the characters desire and the way the author depicts those charmingly annoying traits that are typical of most women in or looking for relationships-over-analysis and obsession.¹

Even in the modern era, woman is regarded as slave to man especially in terms of physical or sexual relationship. It is the commonplace criticism that in the male dominated society, woman does not have such right to show their emotional need freely and they are denied of such human status. But in the modern era of awareness, woman has also become aware of their taste and need. They are also in favour of equality in love and sexual relationship. They would not



like to tolerate the possessive attitude of man in this regard. Any kind of possessiveness and inequality in man-woman relationship results in chaos and anarchy in human relationship and society also. The novel seems to present all these things in unique manner without any hesitation. A critic writes in The Goan Observer in these words of praise about this novel

Unhooked deals delicately with man-woman sexual relationship. Can there be sex without love is the central issue which the novel addressed... it is touching story.²

The novel is full of conflicts and complications in terms of the portrayal of man-woman relationship. Can sexual relationship possible without love and affection? The narrative of the novel also puts this million-dollar question before the readers.

Man-Woman relationship is not all about sex or only physical pressure as people generally believe. If there is not sense of accomplishment in terms of mutual devotion, proper understanding, respect for each-other and platonic concept of love, the true nature of the relationship depends on the above mentioned ingredients in general but in the successful and everlasting man-woman relationship, the role of safety, security, especially in terms of financial support, come in the wake of modernity. In the modern era of economic and material prosperity, it is quite natural that the prospect of human relationship is certainly going to be influenced by modern developments.

In the case of Preeti, Anamika's friend, such issues are there. For her, marriage was essential because she was too thoughtful in this direction. She thinks that she is already in her thirties with no man and no real job. We have to understand the nature of fast-growing and fast-changing society in which economic interdependence plays a vital role in the shaping of human relationship. Woman also does not want to be burden on the shoulders of her male counterpart but she would like to become independent in this direction. Woman like Preeti has to face many problems intentionally or unintentionally both. Munmun Ghosh is aware of such dilemma burning in the mind of the woman on the one hand, their aspiration for love and life, and on the other hand, their sense of economic and materialistic prosperity or economic independence. For instance, Preeti says

"No, I cannot do it. But I feel pretty desperate these days. I will be twenty-nine in a month or so and in a year thirty. Imagine being thirty with no man, no real job... you at least have hooked yourself to a college."³

In the traditional and conventional society of India, people are very conservative in terms of man-woman relationship. The role of the parents is extremely important in guiding such relationship in detail. The question of caste and religion always occurs in the formation of such



kind of relationship and the individuals have not courage at all to leave these things without consideration. When Brian comes in the life of Preeti, she becomes conscious about these things. For her, only love or affection or relationship is not important but at the same time, she has also to respect the emotion and feeling of her parents. She does not want to go beyond her parents anymore because of fear of the society or what people say or what will be happened to her parents when she will be married with a Christian. These things are very common in Indian society and we cannot ignore these things. Munmun Ghosh writes about these things in the novel.

The problem, as it looks to me, is that people like Preeti and me, are unwilling to accept that everybody does not easily get romantic love. If our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and generations of women married and went on to mother children at conventional ages, so that our singleness looks like an aberration and makes us uncomfortable, then we need to remember that they were not choosy about their marriage partners and quietly accepted the man selected by their family elders, placing the institution of marriage above the men they married, viewing marriage as a necessary instrument to commence their actual work of mothering children and raising families.⁴

There are many women in the novel who are the victims of time and space in the vast domain of human relationship. In the modern era when and where everything has become mechanised, it is quite difficult both for man and woman to find and see them in set doctrines or moral stability. The question of morality has become almost subsidiary for both of them. They are in search of new dimensions of human relationship and this brings conflict and dilemma in their mind. That is also the cause of distress and fomentation in human mind. Man and woman are supposed to be two separate poles standing on different schemes and aspiring for different notions and motives. The modern work culture has also imposed many problems also. Anamika remarks in this direction.

Why women in distress? Why not street children, orphans, abused seniors, variously physically handicapped, spastics? Why not them?⁵

Munmun Ghos's *Unhooked* is certainly a wonderful book in the realm of fictional writing because the writer has shown an immense class as well as craftsmanship in handling other various thematic perceptions and assumptions related to man-woman relationship



References

1. The Telegraph..
2. The Goan Observer.
3. Shobha de. (2012, p.75
4. Munmun Ghosh; Unhooked (New Delhi: Mahaveer Publishers, 2012), p. 117.
5. Ibid., p. 150.