

## FEATURES OF GENDER EQUITY IN JANE AUSTEN'S *PERSUASION*

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### Abstract

The equality between men and women are hard to be attained even though, gender equality wide spoken today. The inequality had come from the patriarchy perspective. This paper focuses on the gender discrimination suffered by female characters in the novel *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. Jane Austen clearly interprets various gender discriminations in economics, education, health, marriage, and religion. Since, the invention of latest communication and technology people have been remaining in same thought and struggles this is one of the main causes of gender inequality, those condition still cannot change some of the basic nature between two species are female and male. Gender discrimination happens because people think men are better than women. The real method to reduce gender discrimination is through education and changing the ways that people think about gender roles. This movement towards gender equality is strengthened.

**Keywords:** Gender Discrimination, patriarchy, marriage, economics, and education.

### Introduction

Jane Austen was an English novelist known primarily for her six major novels, which interpret, critique and comment upon the British landed gentry at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the novel, *Persuasion* the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power, and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or the set of activities intended to achieve this state.

Gender discrimination is a situation of gender which has no equality or fair treatment in the same opportunities between gender. The common issues in gender discrimination is about the oppression by patriarchy almost in every aspect such as economy, politics, social, and psychology. The description about gender discrimination by female characters in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*.

Nowadays social status still wide topic and the cause of social status is social economy. In the novel, *Persuasion* Sir Walter does not allow his daughter Anne wants to marry a young man with no fortune and has no proper and standard profession. Another reason for the rejection of Sir Walter is not because care of Anne, instead his pride as Baronet reject the difference class of marriage because a young man belongs to unidentified class. Before Anna was crossing her twenty years old she was proposed by a young man who has no fortune or wealth for his life, Anne feels glad and ask permission to her father, otherwise Sir Walter rejects the proposal because the young man has no wealth to share and spend for her.

Elizabeth did not say anything about the marriage. She just has been forced by her father, and she cannot denies her father because she accepts humbly Mr. Elliot's order.

Anne Elliot, with her claim of birth, beauty and mind to throw herself away the nineteen; involve herself at nineteen in engagement with a young man, who had nothing but himself to recommend him, and no hope of attaining affluence, but the chance of the most uncertain profession, and no connexions to secure even his father rise in the profession, would be, indeed, a throwing away, which she grieved to think of?. (P 20)

Breaking promises of marriage decision also takes under man power; women are keep waiting until the answer out. They are forced to be silent and let everything happen comes and goes. Another type of gender discrimination performs is which told about Mr. Shepherd's daughter who disgraced his family because of divorce.

In the beginning of the novel is introducing a Baronet family of Sir Walter Elliot, he felt that he is a man who has no decent generation to carry on his family and bring up family status in the society. Second marriage is the part of society ashamed, the society unconsciously mocked women who do second marriage, rather than me, society supports the lonely men who do second marriage. It is the senseless about the society perspective.

"Miss Hamilton, three years older than herself, but still from the want of near and settled home, remaining another year at school, had been useful and good to her in a way which had considerably lessened her misery and could never be remember the difference. Miss Hamilton had left at school, had married not long afterwards, was said to have married a man with fortune, and this was all Anne had known of her, till now governess's account brought her situation

forward in more decided but very difficult form.” (P 121)

Gender discrimination in education also a case occurs and happen in the life of the widower, Miss, Hamilton. She had no left school in order to choose marriage. Women in past had no change and chance to continue study in the school, women nature as the society set is nursing their children and care about the household, before marriage women's decision in everything or every field is under the family orders and economical needs. Society set the women in the momentum of education less. So women having short- settled of having education, some of family member will stop the school payment when women has their puberty and parents stars seek for the match making to their daughter.

In gender discrimination of domestic policy a male interest is an interest a man has, in virtue of the goals given to him by social roles that are designated as especially appropriated for men to occupy, or in virtue of his subjective gender identity. A masculine interest is an interest a man has in virtue of attitudes or psychological dispositions that are thought specifically appropriate to men.

In the novel, *Persuasion* by Jane Austen the character of captain Wentworth was an ordinary man with no wealth or future fortune. When he was in first proposal forward Anne Elliot. And the rejecting of Sir Walter Elliot makes him a decision to go out for become a many and several years passed with the title captain before his name, the society and environment surrounding respect him and the social of him get better. The social divisions are best understood as derived from the access of power and focus attention on the importance competition within social groups or classes between them.

In the gender discrimination in economic women often to be marginalized by men because whether women want to have work or not society settled the rule. Women are considered as the unpaid worker, caring he household. Women do not allowed to have work across the country, then only work like the clerk. Here Jane Austen clearly occupied the theme of discrimination in the field of job. The country law also prohibit them to have work as same as men. This is why Sir Walter has much debt because he getting old while there is no public relation will accept his daughters to work and get the payment.

Another society set is the direct harsh argument of Mr. Shepherd about the household.

A house was never taken a good care of Mr. Shepherd observed, without a lady: he did not know, whether furniture might not be danger of suffering as much where there was no lady, as where there were many children . A lady without a family, was the very best preserver of furniture in the world. He had seen Mrs. Croft, too; she was at Taunton with the admiral, and had been present almost all the time they were talking the matter over. (P 17)

Statement above, clear enough to describes how men's arguments about women Men are very hard to accept the woman existences. They do not agree about the equality of humanities which will occurs in whom world. They love to mark women as the useless creature and unpaid labour.

### Conclusion

Gender discrimination is one of major problem until now even though the equality had speeded. It is also inspired the novelist to write into their novel which makes reality relate to literary. Austen's *Persuasion* is one of novel which tell about how women in social life from reality and how women struggle to get their equality in all field in the society to literary work. In most of the countries, women receive second class status, with their rights severely restricted in many cases. Even in more advanced countries with laws to prevent gender discrimination, women still earn less than men and receive less respect. The real method to reduce gender discrimination is through education and changing the ways that people think about gender roles. Gender discrimination happens because people think that men are better than women. It seems obvious that women would want to change the system, but men are less likely to want to give up their positions of power. However when men take part in resisting gender discrimination by treating women with respect, by paying female employees the same rates as men and by encouraging their sons to express feelings, this movement towards gender equality is strengthened.

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