An Analysis of Feminism in Bapsi Sidhwa’s *The Pakistani Bride*

S. VISHNUPRIYA
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women, Kilakarai, Ramnad

**Abstract**

The Pakistani Bride is Bapsi Sidhwa’s most outspoken feminist work. Through an array of different characters, Sidhwa explores women’s conditions of life, love and self-worth in Pakistan. The Pakistani Bride is a novel of women in marriage, women, and sexuality women as objects of male control, and women as subjects of their own feelings. All through the novel, the focus is on female bodies. Whether looked at by men or experienced by women, the female body is the most important image in The Pakistani Bride and this image links with the most important theme, Women’s condition in Pakistan.

In *The Pakistani Bride*, the female body is focused. She suffered a lot after her marriage and she was not even through the exploration of Marriage, Gender Segregation, treated as a human being by her husband. Zaitoon’s Violence, and Sexuality. The men in *The Pakistani Bride* are husband treated her as an object. Zaitoon, according to her characterized between the women of their respective family husband is just a sexual desire.

and the women on the outside. Women who are relatives are protected, guarded and kept secluded from public life and women’s position in male dominated society. The village of from men who are not family. Women who are not relatives, tribal society consider women as an invaluable commodity and who, for different reasons, are not protected by their men, which is used as a material in the marriage. Women are viewed with lust. In both cases, women are treated as objects.

The Pakistani Bride traces the internal development of the protagonist. It tells the reader how women are treated in a wrong way by the men. Tribal men in Pakistani follow their own rules and they consider women as an object to have sexual pleasure and to do works for them. Young girls lost their freedom in the name of marriage.

The novel conveys the dark future of Pakistani women. It deals with the sufferings if women without giving any suggestions or solutions for their problem. The love and friendship between women is vital than the love and friendship between a man and a woman. Even women who come from different city to this tribal village they are asked to follow the rules of that tribal village and obey the words of their husband without disapproving.

The novel mainly deals with the destruction of women in the tribal society. In *The Pakistani Bride*, the three major women characters are Zaitoon, Carol and Saki’s mother, Hamida who represents the problems faced by women in the patriarchal world. Even the minor female characters are also the symbol of oppression who suffers a lot in the male dominated society.

The Pakistani Bride conveys the pain that is visible in every woman by sexual difference. It deals with the story of a young girl Zaitoon who is an orphan but adopted by a tribal man, Qasim. She lived happily in the city of Lahore but lost her happiness by marrying a mountain tribe man.

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Younger women, who are not yet married, but who have reached puberty, wear a shawl to cover their heads, and sometimes their faces and upper bodies. Women don't have freedom to as per their wish and none of the women in the novel go far on their own, only a short walk to their close neighbour is the farthest they may go alone. Women are not allowed to talk to male strangers, and are not allowed to stand in any place without having any work.

When talking to elders or to men outside the family should cover their heads with a shawl to protect them from the male gaze. According to the tribal people women are considered inferior to men.

Reference