

The Effect of Monetary Urge in Shobhaa Dee's Sisters

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Abstract

Shobhaa De, an Indian Columnist and novelist is known for her depiction of Socialites in her works. Among the literary writers of South Asia, Shobhaa Dee holds an elevated position in portraying the reality of Woman status, shattering of human values, dreams and aspiration of women. Shobhaa De's novel Sisters focuses on the monetary urge which leads to instable human relationships. The objective of the research paper explores the effect of monetary urge over human relationships and the disruption of family relationship in the novel Sisters.

Shobhaa De a renowned writer of reality and creativity showcases the shattering human values, power of materialism, lack of identity of women, dreams and aspirations of women in her works. Shobhaa deals with the psyche conflict undergone by the liberated women who are caught between personal self and social self. The objective of the research article portrays the monetary urge and its effect over family relationship in Shobhaa De's novel Sister.

'Sisters' focuses on the instability of human relationships due to monetary urge. It deals with the story of an industrialist Seth Hiralal and his daughters fighting for their identity. Seth Hiralal has a daughter named Mallika by his wife and another daughter namely Alisha by his illegitimate wife Leelaben. Hiralal dies in an air crash. The unexpected death of Hiralal makes Alisha to face the problem of lack of identity in the society. Alisha is shocked after reading the newspaper which states that of the Industry, becomes selfish and wants to gain the possession of Hiralal. It Seth Hiralal is survived by his only child Mikka (Mallika). This news makes Alisha to realize that she is a child of illegal wife and her loss of identity in the society.

Money plays a vital role in the novel Sisters. After the death of Hiralal, Hiralal Industry becomes unstable. Ramanbhai, the senior executive comes to light that Ramanbhai was the cause of the death of Hiralal in the air crash to possess the wealth of Hiralal. Binny Malhotra, a business man offers a proposal of marriage to Mikki. He is already married but wants to marry Mikki to get the assets of Mikki's father's property.

He marries her and takes control over the Hiralal Industries. This shows that his desire for materialism is more than his love for Mikki. Mikki was taking in charge of her father's business. After marriage Binny tells Mikki not to indulge in office issues but remain as a better wife to him. In order to attain power over her property Binny expresses his nature of superiority and dominance over Mikki: Listen very carefully, Princess. This is no longer your father's home and you are no longer the pampered child. You are Binny Malhotra's wife and you'd better start behaving like her. In our family women are trained to obey their husbands. (144)

Binny's tyrannical attitude at home makes Mikki to feel miserable. Her life becomes even more pitiable when she becomes aware of Binny already having a wife named Urmi with his two children, Urvasi and Nithya. She feels desperate that Binny had stripped her off from all her assets, her business and properties. Mikki's life becomes tragic. After her father's death she felt alone and craved for love. She expected true love from Binny. Unfortunately she was deceived by Binny for her assets.

Mikki examines her life of marriage. In the name of marriage she has wholeheartedly surrendered to Binny because she truly loved him. She is not allowed to interfere in her father's business issues which is taken over by Binny. She is expected to strictly follow the image of a traditional woman. Binny wants Mikki to look beautiful, remain loyal and obey him. Binny is materialistic in his views. He is insensitive to the sensitive nature of Mikki. He orders her to abort the baby in her womb. Binny never treats her as a wife but treats her as an object for pleasure. Mikki's friend utters this relationship as a legitimate

prostitution which means that Binny is using her for her property. His monetary urge enables him to order Mikki to stay at home than taking care of business and office. He admits the fact:

No, That's not how it works in the family. Our women stay at home and make sure the place is perfectly run. They fulfill their husband's every need and look good when their men get home in the evening. No office going. No business meetings. And you'd better get used to it. (109)

Even after receiving the worst treatment by Binny she confesses her true love. She is longing to be loved. She does not want Binny to reject her because she needs his love.

Mikki's aunt Anjanaban wants her son Shanay to get married to Mikki for the property. She wants to become the mother-in-law in order to acquire the belongings of the daughter-in-law. She wants her son to get prospered in life with the girl's dowry. Ramanbhai, a trustworthy employee of the Hiralal Industries plots to kill Binny in order to

gain power over the industries. He helped Mikki in business but at the end his brutal nature is revealed. He advises her to leave the business and continue her studies in U.S: " My advice is --- -leave serious matters to me. I am there to handle them. Trust me, I will guard your interest like a father." (109)

Mikki being innocent blindly trusts Ramanbhai. She urges for parental love, care and felt insecure to manage her father's business. At the end, the brutal nature of Ramanbhai is revealed. His plot of killing Binny to conquer the asset is portrayed. In reality, Ramanbhai filled with greed and vengeance wants to attain wealth. His urge for the monetary assets proves him to be a disloyal employee of the Hiralal's industry. Monetary urge disrupts human relationship. Thus it is concluded that man must never allow money to overrule his life. If money takes the rule it disrupts human relationships.

Work Cited

1. De, Shobhaa. Sisters. Haryana: Penguin, 2013. Print.