A CRITICAL REVIEW ON THE SOCIAL DEGRADATION OF FEMININE POWER IN MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT'S, A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

AMIR BASHIR

M.A. (ENGLISH), UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR, INDIA

I. Introduction

A radical thinker of her day whose central notions were framed by the discourses and issues that arouse directly out of the French Revolution of 1789, being as foremost acknowledge feminist writer of modern world, propounded her reason against hereditary privilege and the entire inequitable apparatus of male feudalism. As her troubled life reflects her ideological dispositions, agony, pain and despair and an un-norm suppression which she confronted at the hands of a somewhat despotic father, being a sixth children experienced firsthand the economic disadvantage to which women were subject attempting to earn a living in the conventional female occupation of governess and lady's maid. She has been a victim of unfortunate romantic encounters, at first with Painter Fuseli and then with an American Gilbert Imlay, with whom she conceived a child and whose infidelity led her to two suicide attempts, eventually married the political philosopher William Godwin, after few days giving birth to a daughter. Who married the poet Shelly and wrote the novel Frankenstein. She died not withstanding her turbulent life. She emerged as an enlightenment figure, whose important dimensions were a concern for the economic and educational rights of a woman, as expressed in her work for which she is best known. A vindication of the rights of women 1792 in which she contended the rights of women and laid the foundation of her work on two fundamental principles.

Firstly: That not only men but also women have "The Gift of reason".

Secondly: That no authority can simply coerce women into fulfilling a given set of duties.

Her main critical apparition is on the Social Degradation of feminine power in a vindication of the rights of women. In which she depicts the status representing an irony of dominant patriarchal power on by one masculinity and rest of the whole female community ignored, left with their echoing sighs. Why the majority of men can be taken as regardful and why regardless attitude given to my fellow creatures. Mary Wollstonecraft aroused these questions almost in her every chapter while dealing with "A Vindication of the Rights of Women, for her the catastrophic assumption and referendum of female devastation, degradation un-civic norms not for one to be discussed deeply, but that should be emphatically changed so that her worthy

fellows would get their equivocal regard in the society she deplores.

How long men can hold power How long women can be suppressed

According to Mary Wollstonecraft. Is it a normal society whose acquirement exalts one being above another? Her influential sequence of women problems itself is a memorandum which speaks high of virtues for women and high of vices for men. Her satirical attack on men profession makes it clear, that her staunch belief on the power of female which all along she represents in her essay. A vindication of the Rights of women, is that; when society appoints men as professional and provide them opportunities with regard they should take pre-cautionary majors at the time of appointment, even they should be very careful not to produce results in a way which allows those or establish bodies of men who must be unworthy by the very constitution of their profession. Ironically this satirical attack of her is not for only those who do not possess capability but according to her all men alike.

In the 18th century, the physical phenomena of sensibility was on highest stature, as period of Renaissance brought up with beliefs which adapted by people in a most staunch way. That came to be attached to a specific set of beliefs, morals as well. Eighteenth century predominate the views of physicians and Anatomist who were having of belief.

I. That the more sensitive people nerves, the more emotionally affected they would be by their surroundings.

The revelation of this influential truth in the statement resulted the facts of her argue, that since women were thought to have keener nerves than men they would prove more fruitful and worthy than men in every field;

II. The second statement lies on the emotions, At times it was believed that women were more emotional than men, in this approach they would take responsibilities more seriously than men and should take care of those duties in a most appropriate fashion which would prove an example for the world of reason. Her argumentative fact lies that when a man is being considered with merits then by a "parity of Reasoning", women rights also claim attention as she exclaimed; that women can be an authentic part only. If she understands why she sought to be virtous and

only if freedom strengthens her reason till she comprehends her duty, part of which is to be a "patriot" [a Companion equal to men in every field].

But there is always a summed sense of sojourn with which whole female community could be taken under only for a purpose, which is to be filled by men, whenever they carried their arguments, which they pretends to draw from the indication of general nature, She said I am here referring to the sexual nature of men, and it even revealed more frankly in Rousseau's words.

"That a woman should never for a moment feel herself independent, that she should be governed by fear to exercise her natural cunning. And made a coquettish slave in order to render her a more alluring object of desire a sweeter companion to man, whenever he chooses to relax himself: her loud uproar always make this comparison that rational inferiority comes to women in the world of men. Her question for instance, in this sense, let them allow unfolding their intellectual that makes a comparable sense of ingenuity with the intellectual of men? You certainly will found yourselves meek characters of capabilities in comparison to women. According to my convictions Mary Wollstonecraft attacked a long tradition of male writers who incorporated the degradation of women into "artificial week characters". Even she exclaims that dominant patriarchy of male authors purport to degrade one half of the human species and render women pleasing at the expense of every solid virtue. She clearly expressed that most of the male writers confer women "useless members of society". It was for all such commemoration of the fact, Wollstonecraft raised her upright voices which tend to women into the world of authority, by which women would regulate their own authenticity to being as reasonable one. She sought that women would virtous, if her virtues be regarded not as those who said women are useless beings in all she acclaimed that women too posses power in respective to the powers of men. Indeed it is ultimately on overall premises whether social, political as well as economical equality that would be the basis of women rights to regulate her authencity in the patriarchal society of men. For she said: My monotonous way of rendering the sense of longing for objectivity keep me stand alone for the cause of women subjectivity.

By Amir Bashir.

Author is an M.A in English from University of Kashmir.