

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN AMITA TRASI'S

*THE COLOR OF OUR SKY*

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**Abstract**

Anita Nair, Anita Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Bharathi Mukherjee are the famous Indian female writers. Amita Trasi also one of the grown up Indian writer. *The Color of Our Sky* is her first Novel. The sufferings of girl child in the society has been exposed by several writers. *The Color of Our sky* is one among them. Amita Trasi's writing portrays the resilient power of hope and unbreakable bond of friendship in *The Color of Our Sky*. This is an important story, sensitive and unflinching of two childhood friends and their inseparable bond. This Novel deals with sexual abuse. It fully expresses the pain of the small girl child Mukta. It describes the pathetic condition of a temple prostitute's daughter. The author tells a horrible truth that society a daughter of a temple prostitute as a prostitute. The society considers virginity is only for women not for men. This Novel deals with children's psychology, Human relationship and etc. Day by day, sexual harassment against girl children are increasing. Many girl children are raped in all over the world. Amita Trasi uses her imaginative power in her novel *The Color of Our Sky*. She keenly points out the Indian customs and tradition. Amita Trasi portrays some beautiful real human beings in this Novel. She emphasizes the importance of human relationship. This Novel create an awareness about child abuse.

**KeyWords:** Hope, Friendship, Human Relationship, Slavery, Sexual Abuse, Freedom.

Women is the key, to develop our society. Women is the power of our Nation. Today's women are our country's backbone. Women are the creators of great humans, poet, writers, leaders. The importance of women are growing day by day in the literary field. The roles women in the society were Mother, Sister, Daughter and etc. Women plays a vital role in the society. Women is the center of the family. As works as Women studies, Feminism, Protagonist of Novel, themes are also related to them. Literature is not alone glorify and praise women. It shows their rebel character, soft-horner, brave women etc. In the society, women are treated as Second Sex. They are suffering a lot. There are lots of abuse takes place for women in the society. There are types of abuse in our society, for example, Physical abuse, Emotional abuse, Sexual abuse, Financial abuse and etc. Majority, sexual abuse is happening in every place not only for adult women, but also child abuse. These four abuse are happening in women's life, sexual abuse happening not only for women it destroyed many child, teen age girls life. Sexual abuse is sexual behaviour forced upon a women, or child without their consent. Sexual abuse means abuse of a women or child by a men. Another meaning of the Sexual violence is oppressing women in a patriarchal Society. Day by day, sexual harassment against girl children are increasing. Many girl children are raped in all over the world. Thomas Hardy's novel, *Tess of the d'urbervilles* talks about a girl who is seduced while she is sleeping. Hardy says:

Everything else was blackness alike. He knelt and bent lower, till her breath warmed her face, and in a moment his cheek was in contact with hers. She was sleeping soundly and upon her eyelashes there lingered tears. Darkness and silence ruled everywhere around. Above them rose the primeval yews there poised gentle roosting birds in their last nap; and about them stole... (TDU 89)

*The Color of Our Sky* deals with the sexual abuse. This novel gives an awareness to the readers. A small girl, Mukta who is just ten years old. She is a daughter of a temple prostitute. As her mother is a temple prostitute, the village men come to her house every day during the night time. These men never consider her that she is having a child. They never respect her feelings and emotions. They do not treat her as a mother but only as a sexual being. Her work is to give pleasure to the village men. So, she sacrifices her life because of the rules and regulations in the village (Ganipur). She is the prostitute of Goddess Yellamma. In earlier days, this system was called as Devadasi. It was introduced by the Kings and Zamindars. The work of those women were to dance, sing songs and to worship God. But now it is totally different. Everyone uses Mukta's mom. Because of her fate or curse she becomes a temple prostitute. Mukta explains her mother's position,

In the morning I was to enter the house only after Amma allowed me, only after the man left. But one day, out of curiosity, I opened the back door and stood silently in the doorway. From there I could see into the room the crumpled, unmade bed, alcohol, the Jasmine flowers strewn on the floor. I could also see the feet and hairy ankles of a man entwined with amma's. I didn't know what to think or feel. (TCOS 18)

Simon de Beauvoir clearly talks about the condition of women in her work, *The Second Sex*.

She states,

The term masculine and feminine are used symmetrically only as a matter of form, as on legal papers. In actuality the relation of the two electric poles, for man represents both the positive and the neutral, as is indicated by the common use of man to designate human beings in general; whereas woman represents only the negative, defined by limiting criteria, without reciprocity....A man is in the right in be a man ; it is the woman who is in the wrong. It amounts to its this: Just as for the ancients there was an absolute vertical with reference to which the Oblique was defined, so there is an absolute human type, the masculine. (15)

When Mukta is ten years old, her mother has a fever; they have some money problems too. They are very poor and hungry. Her grandmother, Sakubai is always scolding Mukta because of her mom's sickness. As her mother is sick, men do not come to their house. So, they are in need of money. Their profession is in a question. So her grandma sends Mukta to attend the temple ceremony of God Yellamma in order to make her as a temple prostitute. Mukta is forced to attend the ceremony by her grandma. That ceremony makes Mukta as a temple prostitute. Mukta's mother do not want her child as a temple prostitute like her. So she opposes Sakubai's words. But the small child cannot understand about anything. At the same time, she knows that there is no way to live in this world. So the small child accepts the situation.

Now she goes to the temple without informing her mother. She feels guilty for that. There they give a red saree to Mukta and they put a heavy makeup in her face. Mukta is boasted for her beautiful green colored eyes and lips. She seems to be very attractive. Though

she is very hungry, she is not given food because of the ceremony. After the ceremony, she gets the name of a prostitute. Finally they take her to Zamindar's palace. Madam and Grandma do not bother about her hunger. Their motive is to make her to do prostitution. They send her Zamindar's room. She silently sits on the chair and watched the ceiling fan and the room. Suddenly one big man comes to the room and shuts the door. On seeing everything, she is terribly afraid. That bulky man removes his shirt and loses his belt. He takes her on the bed; she is able to smell the cigarette's smell and she tries to remove his hands around her body but she cannot do so, because that man is very strong. She is not able to breath properly. After two hours, the man goes out of the room. She is suffering from severe pain and bleeding. Her grandmother takes her and dresses her up. Even now she is not given food. Madam (the head of the prostitutes) gets money from the Zamindar and leaves the palace. This is how she becomes a prostitute. She expresses her feelings as follows:

He tipped my chin towards him with his hands, scrutinized my face with his drowsy eyes, and said this had to be done so the goddess could bless his family. Without another word the man began unbotting his shirt and loosing his belt shedding his clothes one by one ana flinging them onto the chair. I slid under the bed and hide there, trying unsuccessfully not to cry. Everything was quiet for a while until his large, hairy hands reached for me, and dumped me on the bed. He said, "Look don't cry. You are unnecessarily making things difficult for yourself. (TCOS 76)

Corban Addison describes the painful life of women and young girls in his work *A Walk Across the Sun* describes the condition of two young girls. This two girls life similar with Mukta's life.

Sumeera left her with Shankar and closed the door. Ahalya started at a spot on the floor, trembling. She could not bring herself to look at the man who had brought her. He approached her and lifted her chin until she met his eyes. He smiled at her as he unbuttoned his pants. "Tonight is your wedding night," he said and pushed her back on the bed. (AWAS 102)

In India, women suffer a lot. Women have been traditionally characterized as ideally warm, gentle and submissive. Some people see women as sexual objects and they do not have any feelings at all. Women are denied with the right to study the Vedas; and they are bracketed with sinners and slaves.

Jasmine is a co-worker of Mukta. She is also a prostitute. When Jasmine tries to escape from the place, Kamathipura, the cruel men kill her, and take her body and buries it. No one knows the secret news except her friends and co-workers. Though they know the issue they never reveal it to anyone. Whenever the workers try to come out from the brothel place, Madam's goondars catch and kill them. This is the punishment for their action. In brothel house, women like Mukta, Jasmine and Leena want to live a happy life with their families. So very often they try to come out of the place. But their efforts become vain. Their entire lives and dreams are totally shattered. Mukta always remember Suhana's death.

When that didn't prevent a girl from falling in love, all the women told the story of Suhana and her lover. Their bloated bodies were found floating in the sea near the Gateway of India, just because Suhana had escaped. She had married a customer and was living in her own home for almost three months until Madam's goondas caught up with them. No one knew if the story was really true but it resounded through the brothel, frightening any girl who dared to dream. (TCOS 251)

Mukta meets Sanjiv when she was Nineteen. Mukta falls in love with him. Many people come to this brothel place in need of pleasure. Sanjiv is twenty years young and rich man. He loves Mukta truly. Every Wednesday he brings red rose to Mukta. He presents a gift, The Gitanjali poem by Rabindranath Tagore. He says to Mukta that he wants to show the world to her. She remembers that she is able to see the world only when she is with Tara; but after entering into the brothel house, her life is entirely changed. He reveals his plan to Mukta that he wants to save her and marry her. At the moment, Mukta remembers the pathetic lives of her co-workers like Jasmine, Maya and many other girls. At the same time, she wants to live with him. Meanwhile, she remembers Tara's words: "Sometimes one act of bravery is better than a life lived as a coward, as a slave." So, with the help of her friend, she is making an attempt to escape from the brothel area. (TCOS 253)

Sanjiv conveys his wish to Madam that he wants to take Mukta to the market. But Madam readily accepts his wish because he is a son of a rich business man. She also sends two goondas to follow them. Both Mukta and Sanjiv cleverly use the opportunity. While they try to escape, they are caught by the two goondas. They kill Sanjiv and takes Mukta with them. For them, she is a golden duck. Her attempt becomes a failure. She says:

I saw the man bash Sanjiv's head with a bat, and blood began streaming from his forehead down the sides." Please, I cried, let him go"Sanjiv fell to the ground ;I watched them beat the life out of him until his body could take no more. They dragged me away while I looked at his lifeless eyes one last time, the same eyes that had looked at me with such warmth for so many weeks, giving me hope of a better life. I knew as they piled me onto the backseat of the car-when I looked at the long road we were leaving behind, his body lying at the end of it, disappearing from sight into my memories-that the dreams I had of us together had always been an illusion. I wondered if the pain was

from seeing Sanjiv die, if the pain in my heart had extended in my body so that it physically hurt to be alive. (TCOS 257-58)

In the brothel house, again she has to lead the same life which she had before. Often Mukta and her friends get pregnant and they have to abort their foetus. But on one occasion she has to give birth to a child. The problem comes through the pimp, Arun Sahib. He is attracted by Mukta's beauty; so he seduces her and makes her pregnant. Madam asks Mukta to abort the child. But this time, Mukta can't abort the child because several times she aborted the child before. If she does so, she will die. So the villainous lady, Madam wants her to earn money. Actually, Arun Sahib is the father of the child. But he is not ready to accept that. He says:

What was the child in my belly belonged to him. He knew it as well. What was the point in telling him anything? I was afraid he might get enraged, refuse to protect me. Who would believe a prostitute who sleep with so many men? So I let it be, stifled the truth, and heaved a sigh of relief instead. If it it's a boy, he can join me in my business," Arun Sahib kept telling me. I know the fate of children born to mothers such as us. At the most the boy would join him as a pimp, bringing other girls into this trade, forgetting that his mother was once in this dirt. I never asked him what he would do if the baby was a girl. I feared to think about it. All I could do was wait and hope this life inside me found a better life- the dream my Amma Once had for me. (TCOS 286)

People like Arun Sahib think that women are just as sexual objects and they have no feelings. In the olden days, women became prostitutes in the name of Devadasi. However, the system is not in the practice nowadays but many girl children are brutally raped.



Prostitutes not only suffer but also ordinary women in the current world. The death of the Delhi girl Nirbhaya, Dr. Priyanka Reddy and eight years old small girl Asifa are brutally raped by men. Rapes or sexual abuse crimes in India are in the peak. This shows how women are unsafe in our country. Every Indian man is ashamed to see that our women are being victimized in such a manner. To add insult to injury of these cases, the judgement are announced only after the death of these three girls. Only with the support of media, these three issues have reached the society whereas fate of many girls' issues regarding sexual abuse are unreached.

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