

**THE FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE IN THE NOVEL “SAMANTANTAR
AAKASH”**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
In Partial Fulfillment for the Master of Education in English**

Submitted by

Bhim Kumari Pun

Faculty of Education

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

Kathmandu, Nepal

2019

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T.U. Regd. No: 9-2-311-251-2011

Date of Approval:

M. Ed. Fourth Semester

Thesis Proposal: 01-04-2019

Exam Roll No: 7228449/073

Thesis Submission: 18-07-2019

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge this thesis is original; no part of it was submitted for the candidature of research degree to university.

Date: 18-07-2019

.....

Bhim Kumari Pun

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my sweet and loving

Parents and Sister Kiran Pun,

*Whose affection, love, care, encouragement and prays of days and nights
made me able to get success and honor in my life*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very much indebted to my thesis supervisor **Dr. Tara Datta Bhatta**, Professor, Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, University Campus, Kirtipur, for his invaluable suggestions, constructive feedback, encouragement and scholarly supervision despite his busy schedule which helped and inspired me so much by providing lots of valuable ideas about my research. I am deeply obliged to him; there are no adequate words to express my gratitude to him.

My deep respect and hearty gratitude goes to **Dr. Gopal Prasad Pandey**, Reader and Head, Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, University Campus, Kirtipur for his suggestions, comments and constructive feedback to accomplish this research. I am grateful to **Dr. Rishi Ram Rijal**, Professor of Mahendra Ratna Campus, Tahachal for his kind support and ideas as my external supervisor.

My sincere gratitude goes to **Mr. Resham Acharya**, Teaching Assistant, Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, University Campus, Kirtipur for his constructive suggestions, comments and encouragement during my research. I am equally thankful to **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai, Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari, Dr. Prem Phyak, Dr. Purna Bahadur kandel, Mr. Bhim Prasad Awasti, Mr. Jagdish Poudel, Mr. Khem Raj Joshi, Mr. Ashok Sapkota and Mr. Guru Prasad Poudel** of the Department of English Education and other professors, readers, lecturers and teaching assistants of Central Department of Education who helped, facilitated, and supported differently for this research and my academic achievement.

Furthermore, I am extremely grateful to all of my family members, especially my eldest sister, **Kiran Pun** for their love, care, inspiration and financial support for my study as well as this research.

Finally, I am grateful to all other people for their direct or indirect support to complete this thesis.

Bhim Kumari Pun

ABSTRACT

This is a research on **The Feminist Perspective in the Novel “Samanantar Aakash”**. *Samanantar Aakash* is a novel by Padmavati Singh which was published in 2005. The novel won the Sajha Puraskar in the year 2007. The main objective of my study was to identify the aspects of feminism in “Samanantar Aakash” in terms of social, cultural and religious aspects, gender aspects, place of women and women rights in the society, and role of patriarchy. My research is qualitative research. It is completely based on primary sources of data i.e. the novel itself. To widen the knowledge and insights in the related area I have used many related books, articles, dictionaries, reference materials and theses. I read and re read the original novel. I selected fifty one extracts which were related to my study from the novel and analyzed them. The findings of the study showed that females are dominated by males in every society, especially in the patriarchal society. They are dominated even by the females themselves who follow the norms and values of the patriarchal society. The society and social aspects like culture and religion, and other social institutions favour the males where females are taken as secondary part and subordinate of males.

This thesis consists of five chapters along with references and appendices at the end. Each chapter is broken down into necessary heading, and sub-headings. The first chapter deals with background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study and operational definitions of the key terms. The second chapter includes review of the theoretical literature, review of the empirical literature, implications of the review for the study and conceptual framework. Likewise, the third chapter consists of the design of the study, population and sampling strategy, sources of data, data collection tools and techniques, data collection procedures and ethical considerations. Similarly, the fourth chapter deals with analysis of the data and interpretation of results. And, in the same way, the last chapter presents the findings, conclusions and recommendations applicable in the policy level, practice level and further research level.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study and operational definitions of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

The word literature literally means “acquaintance with letters”. The art of writing down our internal feelings, emotions, thoughts etc. is known as literature. Literature is the term used to describe written or spoken material commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction. It is a piece of writing which expresses internal and external feelings, thoughts, views, perspectives, and experience that is valued as a work of art. Literature is the use of language to evoke a personal response in the reader or listener.

Literature is an art of writing which is different than technical writing. Literature is creative writing in which the writers express their feelings, emotions, thoughts, views, ideas, perspective and experience through different genres of literature like poetry and prose. Literature plays vital role for language enrichment and development. Lazar (2009, p.1) says, “Literature is a world of fantasy, horror, feelings, visions....put into words.” He further states, “It is the use of language to evoke a personal response in the reader or listener.” In this definition, Lazar (ibid) focuses on imagination, horror, tragedy, comedy, feeling, vision, and experience of the writer are experienced through literary or creative writing by the use of any language. It raises feelings, emotions, pleasure to the reader or listener. Similarly, Collie and Slater (2009) says, “Literature is an authentic material by that we simply mean that most works of literature are not fashioned for the purpose of teaching a language.” It can be said that literature is not only manner of teaching language but it is also an

authentic material which provides facts and reliable information to the reader or listener.

Literature is a mirror of the society which reflects language, culture, tradition, custom and history of the society through different genres of literature. Literary texts or writings are viewed through different perspective by the help of different literary theories and criticism for the analysis of the texts. Tyson (2006) states different eleven literary theories. They are Psychoanalytic criticism, Marxist criticism, Feminist criticism, New Criticism, Reader response criticism, Structuralism criticism, Deconstructive criticism, New Historical and Cultural criticism, African American criticism, Lesbian, Gay and Queer criticism and Post-colonial criticism.

According to Guerin et. al (2005), “Feminism is a social theory or political movement and ideology which believe that all types of oppressions, dominations and discriminations upon women should be ended to establish equality among the people in the world.” Furthermore, Guerin et. al. (2005) state:

Indeed feminism has after focused upon what is absent rather than what is present, reflecting concern with the silencing and marginalization of women in as patriarchal culture, a culture, a culture organized in favor of men. Unlike the other approaches we have examined thus feminism is an overtly political approach and can attack other approaches for their false assumptions about women.

It means that feminism mainly concerns with the domination and exploitation of the females by the males in patriarchal or male domination society. it tries to explore such forms do domination and tries to solve the problem to establish equality. Feminism is concerned with the marginalization of all women. Feminism can attack to other approaches which have false assumptions, perspective and convention about women. Feminist theories aim to understand gender equality and focuses on gender politics, sexuality and power relations.

It shares common goal that is to define and advance political, economic, personal and social rights for women. It seeks to establish equal opportunities for women in education and development. In this regard, Hooks (2000) shares her definition: “Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression” (p. viii). Similarly, Tyson (2006) also shares the similar idea about it. He says “Feminism is a struggle to end sexist oppression, exploitation, sexism and patriarchy”. It means it is a movement and or struggle to end domination and discrimination upon to establish equality among males and females in the world. Feminism is a movement as it refers to a series of political campaigns for reforms on issues such as reproductive rights, domestic violence, maternity leave, equal pay, women’s suffrage, sexual harassment and sexual violence, all of which fall under the label of feminism and the feminist movement.

Mills (2005) states, “Most feminists hold a belief that women as a group are treated oppressively and differently from men and that they are subject to personal and institutional discrimination (p.2).” Women have been suppressed from home to society in social institutions and work place in different forms due to the patriarchal culture. Every sector of social and political institution, women have been concerned with analyzing the way that different forms of oppression, domination, discrimination. Similarly, Madsen (2000) states, “The position of women in colonial American determined by hierarchal world view of the puritan colonialists. Puritan believed that inferiority of the women was mark of original sin, manifest in physical weakness, smaller structure, intellectual limitation and a tendency to depend upon emotions rather than the intellect (p.2-7).” It means men believe that women are naturally weaker, inferior, smaller, and less intellectual than men. And they also believe that they should be confined in domestic sphere like nurturing children, maintaining household and serving their husband .Thus, feminist focuses these issues to establish gender equality in the society

Feminist theories say the females have significant role in the societies of the world. According to Ropers (2003) there are three main principles of feminist theories.

-) Women have something valuable to contribute to every aspect of the world.
-) As an oppressed group, women have been unable to achieve their potential, receive rewards, or gain full participation in society.
-) Feminist research should do more than critique, but should work towards social transformation.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The main aim of teaching literature to the students is to provide fact knowledge and information as well as to make learners familiar with the language structures, functions, grammar and vocabularies for their language enrichment. The ultimate goal of teaching literature in the classroom is development of language skills and analytical skill in the language learners. Different literary genres like poetry and prose (essays, drama, novels, and stories) are taught in language classroom. Some teachers and students view the text generally, from surface level and single perspective but not critically and from multiple perspectives. Teachers and learners view literary texts critically and from multiple perspectives in order to get wide information and broad knowledge regarding the text. Many literary texts can be found written from feminist perspective but they are hidden and one needs to view the text deeply and critically in order to gain the aspect of feminism. Women and their roles portrayed in the text reveal feminism aspect in the novel. Women in our society are taken as secondary parts of the society and they are thought to be weaker and coward. Men use women as a tool and use them whenever they want for their purpose as well as they do not care about their feelings, interests and emotions. In my preliminary readings of “Samanantar Aakash”, I got many

aspects of feminism included in it. Therefore, I selected literary criticism feminist perspective on the novel “Parallel Sky”, translated version of “Samanantar Aakash” to identify those aspects. I have chosen this novel to explore how the females are treated in the patriarchal society, how the women are trying to maintain gender equality and uplift their status by changing the concept of the patriarchal society and how the women can be strong to raise up their voice for equal rights as men in the society.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were as following:

- i. To identify the aspects of feminism in “Samanantar Aakash” in terms of social, cultural and religious aspects, gender aspects, place of women and women rights in the society, and role of patriarchy; and,
- ii. To provide some pedagogical implications.

1.4 Research Questions

The following were the research questions of this study:

- i. What are the aspects of feminism depicted in the novel “Samanantar Aakash”?
- ii. What is the place of women and women rights in the society shown in the novel?
- iii. What patriarchal roles are depicted in the novel?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Teaching literature is essential for linguistic and cultural enrichment and social awareness for the learners. This study is significant for language and literature teachers to know feminism aspect of the novel. They get some ideas about feminist literary criticism. It is helpful for the students for social awareness and

its implication is significant for teachers in classroom teaching. It is also essential material for literature readers. It is beneficial for literary critics in case of the novel “Samanantar Aakash”.

1.6 Delimitations of the Study

The research had the following delimitations:

- a) Primary and secondary sources of data were used in this research; and,
- b) Only the radical feminism aspects of the novel “Samanantar Aakash” were studied.

1.7 Operational Definitions of the Key Terms

The key terms used in this study are listed below:

Samanantar Aakash: A title of a novel originally written by Padmavati Singh and translated in English by Anuradha Sharma as ‘Parallel Sky’, selected to research on the feminist perspective included in it.

Feminism: A range of social theory, political movements and ideologies that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve political, economic, personal and social equality of sexes. It argues that legal and social restrictions on women must be deleted to establish equality between both sex male and female in all aspects of social and private life. It raises voice to rise up the status of women from traditional restrictions in the society.

Patriarchy: A society or community organized on patriarchal lines where males are taken as superior and females as inferior and subordinate of males.

Radical feminism: Radical feminism is a perspective within feminism that calls for a radical reordering of society in which male supremacy is eliminated in all social and economic contexts. Radical feminist seek to abolish the patriarchy in order to “liberate everyone from an unjust society by challenging existing social norms and institutions.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Literature review is an essential task for any researcher to acquire theoretical knowledge about related topic. This chapter includes several sub-chapters like review of related theoretical literature, review of related empirical literature, implications of the review for the study and conceptual framework.

2.1 Review of Theoretical Literature

Theoretical knowledge is necessary for researcher to have enough knowledge about the selected topic of the research. The researcher cannot go further in research process without theoretical knowledge and concept of the research topic. The theoretical concepts of the study have been presented as follow:

2.1.1 Brief Overview of the Novel “Samanantar Aakash”

The present novel “Samanantar Aakash” is the first novel by Padmavati Singh, first published in Nepali and then rendered into English by Anuradha sharma. This novel stands out for its singularly different and remarkably fresh work. The novel won the Sajha Puraskar, a most prestigious prize, for the year 2007 and was introduced in the graduate level syllabus of Tribhuvan University the following year. It is still chosen as a course book. The book has appeared in many editions and it has won the hearts of thousands of readers, especially of the young generation because of the captivating themes and styles. This novel portrays the theme of women's rights; struggle to gain equal status, efforts to ensure a life of dignity and honour for a woman in a patriarchal society.

Padmavati Singh is a highly reputed woman writer, vibrant, fresh and dynamic though in her early sixties now. She is famous mostly for her short stories. To her credit is Maun Swikriti, a collection of seventeen stories published four years ago. The stories are powerful and some of them have been selected for representative anthologies and rendered into English as well. Padmavati singh

is like the character of Sushmita in the present novel. She hails from Kathmandu, the capital city and an intellectual hub of Nepal. She has made a very remarkable contribution towards promoting the lives of women both in the rural as well as urban areas. She is an artist and a supporter of women's cause. She founded and has nurtured a women writer's group called Gunjan for long. Gunjan is a most vibrant organization of women writers in Nepal. It is her brainchild and she made two most substantial contributions to it during her tenure as a chair. These were the publications of Beyond Frontiers (short stories) and Daughter of Earth (poems). These are the first anthologies ever of women's writings in Nepal.

The purposes behind the translation is to show a great work of women's writing in Nepali fiction, to present a prize winning Nepali novel with all the history of art and culture being male dominated and to show the height women's writing has gained in Nepali literature. And it is to show the life of the contemporary Nepalese women from the perspectives of an activist who has fought for their emancipation through redefined socio-political, legal, religious discourses and gender equity perspectives.

The novel is divided into 22 chapters; it is in fact an autobiographical sketch of Sushmita. Sushmita is the spokesperson of the writer in the novel. She represents an educated woman from a well-to-do family. She is typical of urbanity, richness and modern living. She is far advanced and ahead of time. Sushmita waits and moans, expresses joys and exhilaration- so deep, so pure, so natural. She is a very understanding, caring and loving woman. Sushmita stands at the threshold of postmodern values. The novel is basically an account of a rebel. Sushmita is a rebellious central character. The entire novel is a story told from a contemporary, educated woman's perspectives. She sees the life of women in towns as well as in remote distant villages. It is a tale depicted from female perspective. It is a tale of an educated modern lady from her marriage to early fifties. It tells the tale of some thirty-five years of time and sketches the life patterns of three generation with a central character Sushmita.

The novel marks an extreme end point of modern Nepali novel. The beginning was Rupmati where woman's role was secondary, subsidiary and non-existent. On another extreme, "Samanantar Aakash" presents a woman ready to fight against all discriminations and disparities, she challenges all values and norms that stood for subjugating woman.

The centre of the story is woman and her body; her struggle to readjust to new values in a transitional society. Society has discriminated her on grounds of body so far. She revolts against this and tries to take possession of her body and rights to readjust matters.

The locales of the novel are the sophisticated urban centre of Kathmandu and a remote village of Gaurigaun, and some other parts. The stories, mind-sets, values and life patterns of two locales are compared and contrasted. The sole objective of the main character, Sushmita is to make women aware of their situation, to teach them how to fight against age-old patriarchal values and to help them establish themselves at par with or above males.

The novel is an autobiographical description of Sushmita's experiences with Avinash, the deserter; her son Aakash and daughter Asmita. It is a woman centered novel. The major roles are given to them. One male, Prabhat, is an ideal character. Other males are rapists, drunkards, loafers and misogynists. All female characters are sound, rebellious and encouraging. In the novel, there is not a single couple that looks ideal and perfect. One has deserted husband, other has no husband, another hates marriage, still another is impotent yet enslaves the women. The novel shows the best of urban life as an ideal point. Sushmita has a posh bungalow, lovely car and lucrative job, can afford to put her children in boarding school, loves good food, jewellery and dress, affected manners, parties and has all modern gadgets, plus she is close to the cyber culture.

The novel is an attack on male domination and male hypocrisy. It is the voice of new generation, especially the new woman. The new woman, who is aware

of the great changes in medical science, technology and modern education, legal system, human rights, is in a position to declare her own rights and redraw her own boundary accordingly. The main philosophy of the novel is woman's body. It spins around her body and claims for her right to own it. It is not men's, and nor is it society's. So the character Sushmita in the novel shatters all values and norms that limit, or hinder and humiliate women.

One can hear most rebellious of voices in the characters of “Samanantar Aakash”. The society questions whether a woman is a human being at all. One character reports that they are treated as domestic animals. The old captain, the youngsters and the ever depressed woman folks give a most dismal picture. Against such a backdrop, the novel creates such bold female characters and they look for their own spaces, so that a woman can discard a male partner, can manage as single parent, can have sexual contact by mutual agreement, can accept a virgin mother, can go for artificial insemination, can accept intercultural marriages, can accept extra-marital relation and is challenging the establishment. They have stood against sexual abuse, rape, molestation, humiliation and mostly gender discrimination. Women have undergone lots of suffering since time immemorial.

There are different layers of meaning the novel has given. It creates awareness among rural women and empowers them. It emancipates rural as well as urban women. It shows a connectivity of global consciousness. Sometimes the values of the west conflict with those of the east. The novel covers a long stretch of time: some five decades, lasting three generations. The novel showcases quick pace of change, materialistic progress and our journey towards sophisticated society. It discusses women's world, their relations, problems, joys and sorrows, their perspectives. Everything has changed with time.

This is a complete women's novel. It protects, preserves and nurtures a girl child from her childhood and accompanies her till she grows old. It shows the points of attachment and resignation. It places a woman in society. It tries to

create a proper space for her. It shows the ways of the world. It shows the changing world and values and shows new ways and the aspiration of the transformed society or people's aspirations in transition. It emboldens a girl and prepares her for life. It empowers women and prepares her ready to face the worst in life.

Regarding the novel Bhattarai (2011) mentions:

I found the novel so captivating, so moving, so powerful, I cannot think of any other novel by women writer that moves a whole society ahead; that is so positive, that empowers, emboldens and enlightens the characters and ultimately the real people in this way. She moves the reader through the vibrant personality of Sushmita. Her deep sense of involvement, her worries and liveliness, her tears and excitement sweep the readers along with her.

Regarding translation, the translator, Anuradha Sharma has used idiomatic English and adopted free technique of translation; however, she has nowhere sacrificed honesty to the original author at the cost of beauty carved in translation.

2.1.2 Novel as a Genre of Literature

Genre of literature denotes types or classes of literature. Literature is divided into different genres; especially literature can be divided in to two forms: poetry and prose. Prose can be further classified into drama, essay, novel and short stories. These two forms are different in structure and subject matter. Literature can be further broadly divided into four genres namely poetry, fiction, drama and essay. Fiction includes short stories and novels.

Novel is also one of the genres of literature. It is an extended form of literature. The term novel is now applied to a great variety of writing that have been in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose. However, its length is not determined and critics have not made a consensus on

how long it should be. According to Cud don “the length of novels varies greatly and there has been much debate on how long a novel should be”. In novel there are various and multiple characters with a complex plot. It allows for the greater development of the environment or setting.

Novel is regarded as the form of fiction which is based on the imagination or the facts. It is a long narrative story dealing with characters, incidents, and settings that imitate those found in the real life. The novel deals with the events and actions which constitute its plot. Plots of the novel may be tragic, comic, satiric, or romantic. Thus reading and writing a novel is a part of life. In novel there is a large number of characters, numerous flashbacks to the past events with highly complicated plots. Generally, the following are the types of novel:

1. Picaresque Novel

This novel emerged in 16th century in Spain. It is realistic in manner, episodic in structure and often satiric in aim. First, and very lively English example of this novel was Thomas Nashe’s “The Unfortunate Traveler” (1594), Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” (1876) etc.

2. Psychological Novel

It was written by Samuel Richardson. The first psychological novel was ‘Pamela’. It is the story of a sentimental but shrewd young woman who got success in becoming the wife of a wild young gentleman instead of his debauched servant girl.

3. Epistolary Novel

It was written in the form of letters but later novelists have preferred alternative devices for limiting the narrative point of view to one or another single character. The epistolary technique is still occasionally revived in writing novel.

4. Realistic Novel

It is characterized as the fictional attempt to give the effect of realism, by representing complex characters with mixed motives. It focuses on the customs, conversation and ways of thinking and valuing of a particular social class, it is often called a novel of manner.

5. Social Novel

It emphasizes the influence of the social and economic conditions of an era on shaping characters and determining events, often it also embodies an implicit or explicit thesis recommending political and social reform. Example of social novels are Harriet Beecher Stowe's 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' (1852) etc.

6. Historical Novel

It begins in 19th century by Sir Walter Scott. It is also known as documentary fiction, which incorporates not only historical characters and events, but also reports of everyday events in contemporary newspapers.

7. Non-fictional novel

This novel uses varieties of novelistic techniques, such as deviations from the temporal sequence of events and description of participants' state of mind to give a graphic rendering of recent people and happening.

8. Regional Novel

It emphasizes the setting, speech, social structure and customs of a particular locality, not merely as local color, but as important conditions affecting the temperament of the characters and their ways of thinking, feeling and interacting. (Abrams, 2005, p. 190-194)

Hence, the novel is an extended work of fiction; its length varies according to the writers. However its length is not determined and critics have not made a

consensus on how long the novel should be. It contains multiple characters with long and complex plot.

2.1.3 Concept of Feminism

The term 'feminism' was derived from the Latin word 'Femina' meaning 'woman' and was first used with regard to the issues of equality and Women's Rights Movement. The term 'feminism' began in the West in the late nineteenth century as a political movement that fought for women's suffrage and later for their other rights in society. It was in the 1960s and 1970s that feminism grew into an aggressive, vocal, and active movement led by various proponents from the west. Today, feminism has turned into an interesting intellectual standpoint which permeates various fields of study, including language and literary studies.

Ever since antiquity, there have been women fighting to free their half of the total population of the world from male oppression. Feminism is neither a fad nor a logical extension of the civil rights movement, but the protest against the legal, economic and social restrictions on the basic rights of women which have existed throughout history and in all civilizations. Naturally, the principles of feminism have been articulated long ago.

The definition of the term 'feminism' differs from person to person. Chaman Nahal in his article, "Feminism in English Fiction", defines feminism as "a mode of existence in which the woman is free of the dependence syndrome. There is a dependence syndrome: whether it is the husband or the father or the community or whether it is a religious group, ethnic group. When women free themselves of the dependence syndrome and lead a normal life, my idea of feminism materializes."

Feminism is a social theory or political movement which believed that all that all types of oppression, dominations, and discriminations upon women should be removed to establish equality among the people in the world. Mills (2005,

p.2) states, “Most feminists hold a belief that women as a group are treated oppressively and differently from men and that they are subject to personal and institutional discrimination”. Women have been suppressed from home to society and society to social institutions and work place in different form due to the patriarchal culture. Every sector of social and political institution women have been discriminated. Feminist theories have been concerned with analyzing the way of different forms of oppression, domination and discrimination.

Walters (2005, p.117) states, “Feminism is a difference of race, sexuality, class, and age advocating the mere tolerance of difference between women is the grossest reformism. It is a total denial of the creative function of difference in our lives.” It states that feminism concerns with discrimination and inequality between women in terms of race, class, sexuality and age which should be removed. It is a main aim of feminism. She further says that radical discrimination and class discrimination complicates ideas about gender. Western feminists have struggled against sexism and against social and political inequalities.

The basic assertion of feminisms is that feminisms concern themselves with women’s inferior position in society and with discrimination encountered by women because of their sex. Feminist theory calls for changes in the social, economic, political or cultural order, to reduce and eventually overcome this discrimination against women. Feminism is thus a term that emerged long after women started questioning their inferior status and demanding an amelioration in their social position.

Feminism is a movement influenced by the ideas postulated, popularized and precipitated by thinkers and authors like Alice Walker, Naomi Littlebear, Judith Felterbey, Michele Wallace, Lillian Smith, Elaine Showalter, Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millett and others. It is a modern movement expressing protest against the male domination. It provides strategies for change. The aim of

feminist is to understand women's oppression keeping in mind race, gender, class and sexual preference.

According to Cameron (1992, p.6), language is "a medium of representation".

This is what feminists had in mind when they began examining sexism or gender bias in literature and the media in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This led them to "look for some kind of linguistic theory" (Cameron, 1992 p.7).

There are many studies now which even discuss the differences in the way men and women are represented in texts, as well as differences in their speech and writings.

Feminist stylistics introduces readers to a range of issues and skills in the analysis of texts from a feminist perspective. Feminist analysis aims to draw attention to and change the way that gender is represented, since it is clear that a great many of these representational practices are not in the interests of either women or men. Feminist stylistic analysis is concerned not only to describe sexism in a text, but also to analyze the way that point of view, agency, metaphor, or transitivity are unexpectedly closely related to matters of gender, to discover whether women's writing practices can be described, and so on (Mills, 2005 p.1).

2.1.4 Feminist Literary Criticism

Feminist literary criticism is a type of literary criticism to analyze texts from feminist perspective in which literary critics try to explain how power imbalances due to gender in a given culture. In literature, women are suppressed and dominated by male and the role of women is depicted as subservient, unimportant, marginal, secondary and ordinary. Feminist criticism examines the ways in which literature reinforces the economic, political, social, cultural and psychological oppression of women. It studies and advocates the women rights.

Ryan (2007) presents, “Feminist literary criticism studies literature by women for how it expresses the particularity of women’s lives. It studies the canon of male writers for how women have been represented in it (p.131).” It means feminist literary criticism studies how the literature has expressed and represented the role of women. There are varieties of theories propounded by different feminist scholars and practiced for literary text analysis. Selden (1998) has presented American and Continental of French feminism, Radical feminism, Socialist feminism, and Marxist feminism.

According to Tyson (2006), socially, politically, culturally men and women have been treated differently. Actually women are discriminated in different sections of social institution and social system. Traditionally there was long gap between male and female. Women are portrayed negatively in literature to bring out the reality of the society. In patriarchal system, women are treated as emotional inferior, less intelligent, smart in gossip, interested in minor things, less courageous, quick decision making. These all aspects should be considered to analyze literary texts from feminist perspective.

Aristotle declared that ‘the female is female by virtue of a certain lack of qualities and St. Thomas Aquinas believed that a woman is an ‘imperfect man’ (as cited in Seldon, 1988). It means women have been treated as secondary role of male for a long ago. Naturally women have less quality in comparison to men. Women have been made inferiors and oppression has been compounded by men’s belief that women are inferior by nature.

According to Barry (2002, p.121-125), the feminist literary criticism today is the direct product of women’s movement of the 1960s. it has been crucially concerned with books and literature, so that it should not be seen as off shoot from feminism. Critical attention was only given to the books written by male authors and women writers are ignored at that time. Feminist criticism became much more eclectic in 1980s. After that, it started attacking male version of the

world to exploring the nature of the female world and outlook. Finally, feminist criticism focused on neglected women writers and their literary works.

Therefore, feminist literature either written by male writers or female writers speaks in favor of women, which carries features of feminism like women rights, gender equality, and freedom of women. It raises voices against suppression and oppression upon women in the society. Feminist literature brings out the reality of all types of domination, oppression, discrimination, violence and ideologies about women.

2.1.5 History of Feminist Movement

The feminist movement also known as women's movement refers to a series of campaigns for reforms on issues such as domestic violence, reproductive rights, women's suffrage (right to vote), sexual harassment, sexual violence etc.

Feminist movement began in the western world in the late 19th century. It has gone through three different waves:

i. First-wave Feminism

First- wave feminism refers to the movement of early 19th century, which was oriented around the condition of middle or upper class white women and involved suffrage and equal rights in politics. It dealt mainly with suffrage, working conditions and educational rights for women and girls. Writers such as Virginia Woolf are associated with the ideas of the first wave of feminism. Woolf describes how men socially and psychologically dominate women in her book 'A Room of One's Own'. This book argues that women are simultaneously victims of themselves as well as victims of men.

ii. Second- wave Feminism

The second wave of feminist activity began in early 1960s and lasted till the late 1980s. This wave was concerned with gender inequality in laws and culture.

It dealt with the inequality of laws, as well as cultural inequalities and the role of women in society. 'Simone de Beauvoir' is associated with this wave because of her ideas of women as "the other". During this time, feminist campaigned against political and cultural inequalities. This movement encouraged women to understand aspects of their own personal lives as deeply politicized, and reflective of sexist structure of power.

Feminist leaders rooted in the second wave, such as Gloria, Bell Hooks, Chela Sandoval and many other feminist called for a new subjectivity in feminist voice. In the years of the movement women accomplished many of the goals they set out to do. They won protection from employment discrimination, abortion, law reform, greater representation in media, and equal access to school, equal rights movement and many more.

iii. Third-wave Feminism

The third wave of feminism began in the early 1990s. It arose in the response to the perceived failures of the second wave feminism. It is seen as both a continuation of the second wave and a response to the perceived failures. The third wave feminism had a greater focus on developing the different achievements of women. It includes renewed campaigning for women's greater influence in politics. This wave focused on intersectionality and sexual identities. The diversity of "women" is recognized and emphasis is placed on identity, gender, race, nation, social order and sexual preference. Changes on stereotypes, media portrayals and language used to define women in this period.

2.1.6 Types of Feminist Theories

There are many feminist theories propounded by different feminist scholars and practiced for literary text analysis. Here, I discuss American and Continental or French feminism, radical feminist theory, socialist feminism and Marxist feminist theory in brief:

1. American and Continental or French Feminism

Madsen (2000, p. 15-22) states, “American feminist approaches tend to be grounded in cultural and historical analysis and French feminism grounded in Freudian psychoanalysis.” She further writes, “American feminism concerned with famine history and French feminism concerned with ‘famine’ as a category of discourse, language, philosophy and psychoanalysis.” Here, Madsen states that American feminism focuses on famine history and cultural aspects of society for literary text analysis; French feminism focuses on language and discourse used in the literary text, conscious and unconscious, state o writers’ and philosophy for literary text analysis.

2. Radical Feminist Theory

Radical feminist theory is a feminist theory which views that women form a ‘sex class’. The condition of women is not just as a class but as an oppressed class. Madsen (2000, p.152-153) further says, “Radical feminism analyses the relationship between social inequality and sexual difference.” Madsen (ibid) focuses that while analyzing the literary texts from radical feminist perspective, social inequality among men and women and sexual discrimination should be analyzed. Radical feminism recognizes the oppression of the women as the fundamental political oppression wherein women are categorized as inferior class based on their sex. Women are suppressed in different circumstances.

3. Socialist Feminism

Socialist feminism is another theory of feminism which focuses upon power relationships, especially the intersection of capitalism, racism and patriarchy and the production of political personal life. Likewise, Madsen (2000, p.184-185) further states, “Violence, pornography, working conditions, reproduction and sexuality are the issues that concern socialist feminism.” She further says that rich oppress the poor and man oppresses the women. These types of oppressions are effect of culture or social relations which define our existence

as gendered individuals. Violence upon women, pornography upon women, working conditions of women, reproduction and sexuality all aspects should be considered while analyzing literary texts.

4. Marxist Feminist Theory

Based on Madsen (2000), it can be said that marxist feminist theory situates gender relations as a reflection of economic class relations within the structure of family unit; the man is the bourgeois as the women is the proletariat.

Similarly, eco-feminism analyzes the relationship between the patriarchal oppression of women and the human domination of non-human nature. It focuses on all the practices of domination within culture, racism, sexism, class oppression and the exploitation of nature.

2.1.7 Features of Feminist Literature

Feminist literature is based on the features of feminism, and refers to any literary work that centers on the struggle of woman for equality, and not to be accepted as a human being, before being cast into a gender stereotype. Feminist literature brings out the reality of all types of oppression, discrimination, violence, ideologies about women and so on. It is only through such kinds of work that women believed a change was possible in the way they were perceived in society. Not all feminist literature has been written by women, but also by men who understood women beyond the roles they were expected to fit into, and delved into their psyche to understand their needs and desires. Some works may be fictional, while others may be non fictional. Taking ideas from Barry (2002), Mills (2005), Walters (2005), Tyson (2006) and Ryan (2007) have mentioned different features of feminist literature. Feminist literature is based on the theories, principles of feminism, and refers to any literary work that centers on the struggle of a woman for freedom, equality, women rights and so on. Feminist literature may be fictional as well as non fictional. Feminist literature is known to understand and explain the difference between sex and gender. Women are always featured as the protagonist in literature of the

feminist nature who does not readily accept the traditional role of women as decided by the society. They are revolutionary in nature and go against traditional conventions, gender discrimination and oppression upon women. Feminist literature always moves in female sphere..All events, actions and stories in literature are always in favor of the women .Feminist literature portrays out the dominations, discriminations, oppressions, inequalities and biasness upon women.

2.2 Review of Empirical Literature

To collect some ideas on theses writing, I reviewed different empirical literature. They are as follows:

Basnet (2010) carried out a research on “Assertion of Self: A Feminist Study of Margaret Edson’s Wit.” Objectives of the study were to reveal how Edson has asserted the feminity in her play Wit and explicating Edson’s play Wit from the perspective of feminism. How females are suppressed in the text economically, academically, socially and politically, how they are always pushed in the margin and how they have asserted their position in the society were the research questions of the study. The research was based on the survey research design and related to documentary analysis. Secondary data were collected from the play to complete the research. Tools of that research were texts of the play and the population was the same play. The researcher used purposive non-random sampling strategy. Data were analyzed by adopting qualitative approach of research. The major findings of that research were: Vivian Bearing, the major character was radical in the sense that she had subverted all the traditional role models of the females and asserted the models of the females in the society, patriarchal values never desired females to come at the center rather desired to follow all the codes and conducts of patriarchy. History is the proof that females were desired as an appendage as a partner of their sexual dance and nothing more than that.

Khatri (2010) carried out a research on “Representation of Violence and Resistance to Patriarchy in The Fire and The Rain: A Feminist Study.” The objective of the research was to justify how The Fire and The Rain represent as violence, seduction, betrayal, evil and treatment of myth for the mythical characters. The researcher followed survey research design to meet the objective. The research was related to documentary analysis. The data for the study were collected from the secondary sources only. Some texts from the play were tools for data collection and the population of the study was a play The Fire and the Rain. Sample population (some texts) was selected through purposive sampling procedures under non-random sampling strategy. The major findings of the research were: most of the characters like Vishakha, Mittilai, Arvasu and so on were disgusted, oppressed, crushed, exploited and suppressed by the patriarchy. The playwright shows the plight of the most Indian women in a male dominated society and woman in traditional society were not permitted to express her feelings of love to another where as a male is permitted.

Bhatt (2013) carried out a research on “Feminist perspective in the novel the Bell Jar”. To identify the aspects of the feminism in The Bell Jar and to provide some pedagogical implications were objectives of the study. Survey design, purposive sampling procedure, and secondary data were used from the novel The Bell Jar for the research. Observation (reading and re reading) technique was used to collect required data. Some major findings were, female are dominated by males even in developed countries, females are dominated by females as well and they are treated as secondary role in society.

Canis (2014) prepared a research article entitled “The Color Purple by Alice Walker in Terms of Feminist Criticism”. She mainly focuses on the most important theme of Walker’s well-known novel The Color Purple; abuse of women in terms of Feminist Criticism. For centuries, the role and the relations of men and women are regarded according to their societies’ way of living. Men are regarded as the ruler or, in a sense as the dominant part of the society

while women are seen weak and thought to be helpless. As in the case in Walker's prize winning novel, women are forced to live under the dominance of their rulers, until one between them realizes her value, stands against the abuses and declares her identity as a powerful woman in the society. Her article aims to reveal Celie's struggle as a child first then as a grown up woman in the light of her heart touching fight for survival in terms of Feminist Criticism. In this context, this study focuses on the novel, *The Color Purple*, with respect to its well-known themes of woman abuse, sexism and racism, male dominance, power of narrative voice and power of strong female relationship.

Eysteinsdottir (2015) wrote an essay on "Gender Equality in *The Color Purple*: From Survival to Wearing the Pants". Her essay explores gender equality in the novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. The novel portrays how males, without any effort, are automatically accepted as the head of their household, their children and their families' finances. The women, on the other hand, have to fight hard to claim equality. In my essay I demonstrate how Celie, the protagonist in Walker's novel, is an oppressed person in the beginning, hardly knowing her own self, but through friendship with other women characters she becomes a strong, confident woman, claiming her independence.

Isik (2017) has done a thesis on "Black Feminism in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*". In this thesis, the representation of black female sexuality in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* is examined, in relation to the political debate of feminism in the late 20th century. *The Color Purple* was subject to controversy when it came out in 1982. It shows the oppression that African- American women have faced, and how their oppression is different from African- American men. Additionally, it shows how this oppression has led to the black feminist movement. Gender and race are inextricably linked, and this thesis aims to shed light on this type of intersectionality.

Similarly, Sharma (2017) carried out a research on "The Feminist Perspective in the Translated Autobiographical Essay *Jeevan Kaanda Ki Phool*". To

identify the aspects of feminism from an anthology of autobiographical essays *A Flower in the Midst of Thorns*, and to provide some pedagogical implications were objectives of the study. Survey design, purposive sampling strategy under non-probability sampling procedure and secondary data from the essay were used in the research. Reading, rereading, underlining and selecting the sentences or extracts which are related to female issues were data collection tools of the study. Major findings of the study were, there are many aspects of feminism depicted in the anthology of essays like, social, cultural and religious aspects, oppression and domination aspects, women rights and freedom aspects, women's existence aspects and gender aspects which show the domination, gender discrimination and inequality, restricted women rights and freedom, and secondary or subordinate position of females in Nepalese society due to patriarchal system. Females have been dominated by their parents, family, society and by both males and females. Nepalese women have been dominated even by higher, educated, civilized and respected people due to patriarchy. Females have been taken as fine objects of entertainment in Nepalese context.

Likewise, Katuwal (2018) carried out a research on "A Feminist Analysis of the Color Purple". To identify the aspects of the feminism in *The Color Purple* in terms of social, cultural and religious aspects, gender aspects, place of women and women rights in the society, and role of patriarchy was the objective of the study. Documentary research design, purposive sampling strategy, and secondary data were used from the novel *The Bell Jar* for the research. Observation (reading and re-reading) technique was used to collect required data. Some major findings were, females are dominated in male dominated society even in so called developed countries, they are dominated even by the females themselves who advice to follow the norms and values of the patriarchy society. The society and social aspects like religion, and other social institutions favor the males where females are taken as secondary part and sub-ordinate of males.

Though some of the researchers are related to literature teaching and some are to the novel of my study, *Samanantar Aakash*, all these empirical literatures helped me to get and develop many ideas about my research. I received ideas about the methodologies that are to be used in the research, about the data collection process and analysis procedures. But along with the ideas got from the literature, I had my own ideas about the title, objectives, data collection and analysis processes because the topic of my study is ‘The Feminist Perspective in the novel “*Samanantar Aakash*”’.

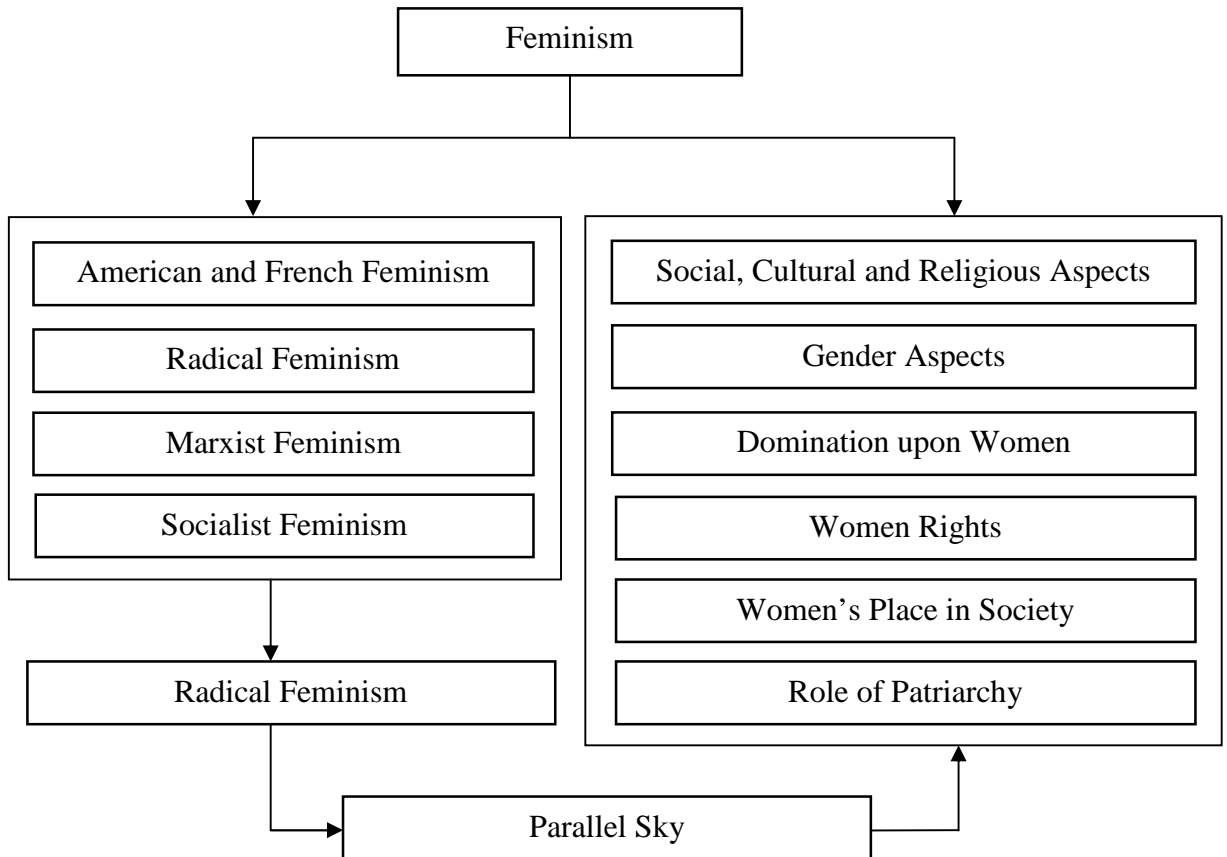
2.3 Implications of the Review for the Study

The literatures reviewed were important for the proposed study. I took lots of information and ideas about my research which were most helpful and useful for my research in case of procedure, methodology, sources of data and tools. This review had been collected through varieties of books, theses and internet as well. These entire sources helped me to bring clarity and focus on the research problems, challenges, improving methodology and contextualize the findings. The review were essential to examine and evaluate what has been said before on the topic and what has not been said yet for finding new area for further research. Actually, the aforementioned studies had their own value and significance in their respective fields. Tyson (2006) and Selden (1998) provided me lots of ideas and information which were more important for my Study. Similarly Madsen (2000) and Mills (2005) were also helpful to get ideas about feminism and feminist theories of literature. Likewise, Ryan (2007) was more relevant for my study. Furthermore, Katuwal (2018) helped me to develop concept of conceptual framework from her thesis.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework refers to the mental image of the process of what had been done in the research. In another words, conceptual framework is the theoretical mental picture of the researcher towards research. It is also called pathway or road map of a research which explains relationship between

variables or themes of the study. In my study, I used radical feminism to analyze the novel from feminist perspective which includes social, cultural and religious aspects, gender aspects, domination upon women, women rights, women place in society and role of patriarchy. The conceptual framework of this study is as follows which is presented in dramatic form.



Based on the aforementioned conceptual framework, my study is related to the feminist criticism in which different feminisms are situated like American and French, Radical, Socialist and Marxist. The chosen novel was based on the radical feminism to be analyzed from the feminist perspectives like social, cultural and religious aspects of feminism, gender aspects, domination upon women, women's rights, women's place in society and the role of patriarchy.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

This chapter includes several sub-chapters like design and method of the study, population, sample and sampling strategy, sources of data, data collection tools and techniques, data collection procedures, data analysis and interpretation procedure and ethical considerations.

3.1 Design and Method of the Study

This research will be a form of qualitative research because it is related to documentary research. Pressley (2006, p.686) remarks, “Qualitative researchers cannot agree on the purpose of qualitative research, its boundaries and its disciplinary field.” She further says:

Qualitative research is characterized by a loosely defined group of designs that elicit verbal, aural, observational, tactile gustatory and olfactory information from a range of sources including amongst others, audio, film, documents and picture and that it draws strongly on direct experience and meanings (p.219).

Therefore, qualitative research is that which draws out verbal, observations, tactile, gustatory and proverbial information from audio, film, documents and pictures. It provides in depth and detailed understanding of meanings, actions, and non-observable as well as observable phenomena.

According to Patton (1990, as cited in Best & Khan, 2009), "Qualitative research consists of three kinds of data collection; (i) in-depth open ended interview, (ii) direct observation, and (iii) written documents (p. 190).

Qualitative analysis of documents refers to the analysis of expert quotations, memoranda and correspondence, official publication and reports, personal diaries and so on. My research will be related to written document analysis which will be the analysis of a novel.

Cohen, Manion & Morrison (2011) says, “Documentary research typically makes use of documents produced previously and by others rather than in the process of the research or by the researcher.” Documentary research is the study of the documents that are already prepared by other than the researcher which are documented for audiences and for information rather than for researches. Documents are simply written texts.

Scott (2006) mentions, “Documentary research involves the use of texts and documents as source materials: government publications, newspapers, certificates, census publications, novels, film and video, paintings, personal photographs, diaries and innumerable other written, visual and pictorial sources in paper, electronic, or other ‘hard copy’ form.” He further states, "Along with surveys and ethnography, documentary research is one of the three major types of social research and arguably has been the most widely used of the three throughout the history of sociology and other social sciences. It has been the principal method - indeed, sometimes the only one - for leading sociologists.”

Similarly, Cohen, Manion & Morrison (2011) says that documentary research typically makes use of documents produced previously and by others rather than in the process of the research or by the researcher. It means documentary research refers to the research on documents which are already produced and published by others rather than the researcher. Documents are both primary and secondary.

They further state, “Primary documents are produced as direct record of an event or process by a witness or subject involved in it. Secondary documents are formed through an analysis of primary documents to provide an account of the event.” It means if the researcher is witness or involved directly with related document, this is primary document for him/her and if s/he is going to research on others’ documents that is secondary document. My research will be related to secondary document analysis.

3.2 Population, Sample and Sampling Strategy

The population of the study was the written document, the novel “Samanantar Aakash” written by Padmavati Singh, because my research was related to document analysis under documentary research design by adopting qualitative approach. As sampling strategy, purposive sampling strategy was followed under non-random or non-probability sampling procedure. The selected novel was observed, studied in depth, and the sentences and or extracts were selected which were related to female issues and social cultural issues to complete the objectives of my study.

3.3 Sources of Data

The study was based on primary source, the original book written by Padmavati Singh. The required information was taken from the novel “Samanantar Aakash” in terms of obtaining the objectives of the research. And as secondary sources of data, analysis and views of others on the book were taken to get additional information about the book.

3.4 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

My study is the analysis of the novel “Samanantar Aakash” written by Padmavati Singh from feminist perspective. Reading and re-reading, underlining and selecting the sentences or extracts which were related to female issues and gender issues were the techniques of data collection.

3.5 Data Collection Procedures

Basically, the researcher read and re-read both original and translated version of selected novel. The researcher underlined the female issue and gender issues related sentences or extracts. The researcher noted down those extracts and sentences and categorized them into different six categories.

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation Procedure

Different procedures were applied to analyze the received data. First of all, data were categorized in terms of social, cultural and religious aspects, domination upon women, women's right, women's place or position in the society, gender aspect and the role of patriarchy. The data were tabulated and linked with feminism by the help of feminist theories and criticisms. Then, qualitative approach of research was adopted for analyzing the received data. The data were analyzed and interpreted descriptively.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethical consideration is an important part of research in which the researcher needs to be serious dealing with different sources whether they are primary or secondary involved in the study and using the ideas of other scholars and researchers to support her/his research. I had followed the following ethical considerations in my study:

- a) Sources and quotations were acknowledged by citing and paraphrasing with authors' name and published date of books to avoid plagiarism.
- b) Potentialities of the author were respected from whose book the data were taken.
- c) The data were reported honestly.
- d) Unbiased language was used to analyze the data.
- e) People were thanked and given credit who had helped in my study.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPETATION OF RESULTS

Based on the collected data from secondary sources, data were analyzed and results were interpreted. Analysis of data and interpretation of results is presented in the following sub-headings.

4.1 Analysis of Data and Interpretation of Result

On the basis of data obtained from analysis of the essay, data were analyzed and results were interpreted and discussed based on the analysis as the following ways:

4.1.1 Social, Cultural and Religious Aspects

Different social, cultural and religious aspects of feminism are depicted in this novel. Here, fifteen sentences or extracts which are related to social, cultural and religious aspects of feminism were selected from “Samanantar Aakash”, analyzed and interpreted. Related sentences or extracts and their analyses are presented as following:

a) *Sweety expressed her doubts, “Easier said than done ma’am. It’s impossible to do away with norms and values of the society that are centuries old. And it is not easy proving the traditional perceptions and the age-old attitudes wrong.” (p. 8)*

In this extract Sweety says Sushmita that it is easy to say about changing the patriarchal society, its norms and values which have been practiced from centuries in our society but it is a lot more to difficult to change and prove such perceptions, norms and values wrong. Due to the existing traditional patriarchal perceptions, norms and values, the women cannot easily achieve their rights and equality.

b) *“Women lag behind men because they can’t change with time, isn’t that so?” Sweety asked my opinion. (p. 8)*

Here, Sweety questions Sushmita about the reason women lag behind. She wants to know if it is because they can't change with time. Here the main reason why women are back warded is presented and it is because they don't like to change with time and accepts whatever is going on from centuries in the society.

c) *“But I can't live without a child anymore. I have no intention of remaining only as one of your objects of show and luxury, and waste my days and nights only for the gratification of your self-indulgences.....I am not just an object of lust.”I was yelling. (p. 15)*

In this extract, Sushmita yells with her husband for having a child and shows no intention in remaining as his object of show and luxury. This extract shows how women are taken by the men in society. The men take women as objects of show and luxury. The women are taken as object of lust. This denotes that women are considered inferior to men and only as an object of show, luxury and lust.

d) *Another friend of his who was seated next to him, added satirically, “It is believed that you are cursed to be born a woman in this life if you had sinned in your previous life. That must be the reason why women suffer pain and humiliation till the last breadth of their lives.” (p. 18)*

In the above extract, opinion of males towards females is depicted. Males opine females are cursed to be born as females because of their sin that they have done in their previous lives. Being cursed and born as women, they also have to suffer pain and humiliation till the last breadth of their lives. Therefore, women are always dominated by men.

e) *Sweety said, “Did you see how conservative outlooks still prevail among today's youths? These youths because they were brought up in a very conservative society, think themselves better and smarter than women. They haven't been able to rid themselves of the traditional viewpoints, and even*

by the end of this twentieth century, there is no sign of any transformation in their perspective of the women and gender quality.” (p. 20)

This extract presents the present condition of the society where the youth still poses conservative thinking as a result of being brought up in the conservative society. The men always think themselves better and smarter than the women. The world is changing but the perception of men towards women does not seem to change. In this 21st century also women are not given equal status and women rights are still lacking for the women.

f) Avinash one day, after a cursory look at me, from my head to my toe, said, “You’d better join a fitness center to tone your body up. Take at least a round or two of the beauty parlor every week. Everything in this house is decorated with exotic items. You should live in a style and manner befitting a land-lady of this beautiful mansion.” (p. 24)

In this extract, Avinash suggests Sushmita to join fitness centre to tone up her body, go to beauty parlor, and live in a way that she seems as exotic as the exotic items in the house. The extract reveals the perception of men where women are perceived to be as decorative objects rather than a human being.

g) Of course I would love to! My life would be blessed if I could earn for myself and not have to depend on this old man for money,” even as she said so, she sprang up to her feet and almost fell on my feet, reverently. (p. 36)

In this extract, Krishna Maya exclaims that she would love to earn for her living and not depend upon her husband for money but she is mentally and physically dependent upon her husband for her living and for money. This shows that women in our society are both physically and mentally dependent upon men.

h) Wiping my running nose with my sari, I told him “You look down upon me because I have been tossed here on your mercy, by fate. I have to bear with

your atrocity and your injustice because I am completely dependent on you.” (p. 38)

Here, Krishna Maya reveals her pain, cruelty and injustice that she has to suffer from her husband. This extract shows that women has to suffer all the cruelty and injustice of men because she has married to me and is dependent to me for her living and running her family.

i) ...women’s duties lie within the four walls of the house. They are supposed to take care of the house, give birth to children and remain under men’s control. (p. 55)

Here, some youths of the village talk about the duties of the women. The women’s duties as looked upon by men’s viewpoint are presented. Their duties lie within the four walls of the house, caring the house, giving birth to children and remain under men’s control. Therefore, women are taken as slave by men.

j) “Stop talking trash. Men don’t work at homes. Don’t you know the men who help their wives are known as henpecked husbands, in the society? Stop blabbering and just fill in my pipe.” (p. 68)

In this extract, Captain shouts at his wife reminding her about the works of men. The perception of men towards themselves in the society is portrayed. They see men as superior to women and ruler to them. They think that household works are only for women and those who help their wives at home are henpecked husbands. This shoes that men are not meant to do household works and women are not meant to do official works or any other works except the household ones.

k) “My love, please talk to no man unnecessarily, and please don’t go flirting around with any other guys. Keep yourself occupied in your work,” captain, by way of advice, told her. (p. 77)

Here, Captain is consoling his wife not to talk to other men and keep herself occupied with her work. This shows that women are so much bounded by men that they can't talk to person they like to talk with. They have to suppress their feelings and desires and live their lives.

l) But on our way out of the restaurant, we had an unpleasant incident. A youth, who had been consistently eyeing Aastha for a long time while she was eating, walked past her, jostling her in the act. (p. 155)

Here, a youth who was consistently looking at Aastha for a long time in desire to touch her, walks past her and comes to a rough contact with her. This shows how women are physically inferior to men and physically dominated by men in our society.

m) I had seen men bringing another wife when they already had one in their home. The society had allowed a man to bring home a second wife, whereas it had always been very strict and rigid in the case of women having affair with a man even after she had been legally divorced by her former husband. Was that justified? (p. 181)

Here, Sushmita says that society allows a man to bring second wife although he has one in his home but the society does not allow a women to have affair with any other men after being legally divorced by her former husband. This point out that rules for women in society is very strict whereas there are no any rules for men.

n) Sweety explained, "The women, in this region, are living a very difficult life indeed. Their days start with the first crow of the rooster. They do not have a minute's break till late night. It falls entirely to their lot managing the household, working in the fields and taking care of the children." (p. 7)

Here, Sweety talks with Sushmita about the daily chores of women in Nepalese society where they have to work from early in the morning till late in the evening. They live a very miserable life. They do not have leisure time to think

for themselves. In our culture, the women's works are household activities, working in the fields and taking care of the children. The men think that the women should not be involved in any kinds of official works and are also not allowed to work from their family.

o) "Women are considered equal to animals in these parts of our villages," the first youth answered derisively and squinted towards his friend. (p. 19)

Here, one of the youth mentions that the women in those parts of villages are considered equal to animals. The women and their status in family, society and nation are shown equal to animals which mean they are not given human value by men. They are not given any rights. Their voices are not considered.

4.1.2 Gender Aspects

Gender is an aspect of feminism where differences between men and women in relation to their gender are portrayed. Here, five extracts related to gender aspects in the novel have been presented as below:

a) "What disgraceful things these women actually are! They aren't fit to be even called human beings." (p. 18)

In this extract, youths of the village expresses their thoughts towards women. The men think women are not fit to be even called as human beings. They are considered equal to animals. So, biasness on the basis of gender is seen in a patriarchal society like ours.

b) Why is he so obsessed about a pretty face and an attractive body and an attractive body of a woman? Do men love women only for their charming looks and shapely figures? Is the word love synonymous fro lust for all men? (p. 24)

Here, Sushmita questions about the nature of men and their feelings for women. The men look for the physical beauty of women. Their education,

work and qualities do not matter at all. For all the men love is synonymous to lust. Hence, men consider women as an object of lust.

c) *Though I was getting tired of life yet I had never thought of running away from it. I was there not to escape life, but to live it. I had duties and responsibilities to perform. And my main responsibility lay in boosting their economy and making the women of the region self-reliant. I thought, 'women would never be made free and equal to men until and unless they were made self-reliant. Gender equality was never possible without women empowerment.'* (p. 28)

In this extract, Sushmita tells that she had lots of trouble in her life being a woman but she had determination to live and raise the condition of the woman. Women could only be free and equal to men if they are self-reliant. Therefore, gender equality is only possible through women empowerment.

d) *"We turn ourselves in to emotional slaves when it comes to matters like love, husbands and children. To get rid of all this, we have to first free ourselves from our conservative mindsets and traditional viewpoints," I explained.* (p. 33)

Here, women are shown much more emotional than the men. Matters like love, husband and children turn them to emotional slaves. In order to get rid of being emotional slaves, they need to free themselves from the ongoing conservative mindsets and traditional viewpoints. Only then can the women empower themselves.

e) *Conservative thoughts and life-styles have helped in the creation of the wall of gender disparity. Only modern and scientific thinking can bring down these conservative values and mind-sets.* (p. 124)

This extract reveals the main reason behind the gender disparity in the society which is conservative thoughts and life-styles of the people living in the

society. Modern and scientific thoughts are the solution to conservative values and mind-sets.

4.1.3 Domination upon Women

Several kinds of domination upon women can be seen in the society. Here, twelve extracts and their analysis that are related to domination upon women have been presented as below:

a) *“Did you see how men underestimate and deride we women? Who is this man, anyway?” I asked sweety.*

“He is Santa Bahadur Gurung, the chairman of this Village Development Committee. People like him with a male-chauvinist mentality can never believe that a woman too can work in the ‘fields’. He had, once in the past, behaved the same way with me as did it to you now,” Sweety informed. (p.

6)

Here, Sushmita tells Sweety that she had been underestimated and deride by men. Sweety replies that men with male-chauvinist mentality believe that women cannot perform official works. Such men underestimate and deride women. Men with male-chauvinist mentality think themselves better and superior to women.

b) *“It is fine you speaking of your rights. It is fine with me you giving birth to a baby; but you’d better mind that you will not have a single word of ‘sorry’ in case I am distanced away from you,” he warned me. (p. 15)*

In this extract, Avinash threatens Sushmita, his wife, that if she bears any child he would distance him from her. Hence, the women are not only physically but mentally tortured by men. They threaten them to leave them and the society considers the women who are left by men as women of no dignity and respect.

c) *“A woman loses the bloom and the charm of her youth, once she gives birth to a child. Therefore, I don’t at all relish the idea of you giving birth to a child, at least for some more years,” he replied me curtly. (p. 14)*

Here, Sushmita is forbidden by her husband, Avinash, from giving birth to a baby as women’s physical beauty tends to fade once she gives birth to a baby. This shows that men don’t care about the feelings of women. They only care about the youth of a woman. Women in this case are shown inferior and dependent upon men.

d) *Time passed by. His behavior showed signs of changes. He was no longer my loving husband. Our relationship was confined only to the bed. He would not tell me where he went and whom he met. He would often be late coming home in the evening. He would turn very rude and belligerent if I asked him something. He neither cared for me nor did he care listening to what I said. He would put just enough money, for a month’s household expenses, in my hand, and would go wherever he liked and do whatever he liked. (p. 23)*

Here, Avinash changing behavior towards Sushmita is shown as he was in affair with another woman. He comes late home, stops caring his wife, behaves rudely, goes wherever and does whatever he likes and only gives money enough for a month’s household expenses. Therefore, love for men is bounded to physical beauty and appearance of women whereas women tend to love men they love with all their heart.

e) *Shattering the silence of the night and for everyone to hear, she was heard crying loudly again, “He is killing me! He has me killed!” The women Krishna Maya screamed. (p. 32)*

In this extract, husband of Krishna Maya is drunk and he beats his wife very severely. This portrays that men do not bind by the norms, rules and

regulations of society. They can do what they like but the women cannot. They show superiority by being violent and beating their wives.

f) *“Yes, that’s indeed very likely. This is the way of life, for almost all the women, in his part of the world; some run away from their homes to save themselves from the constant physical abuse at the hands of their husbands, some end their lives by jumping in to rivers for being able to bear the shock of their husband’s second marriage, and many elope to escape the atrocities committed against them by their mother-in-laws. And many commit suicide to escape the torturous life of early widowhood,” Sweetie explained. (p. 32)*

This extract presents the domination upon women by men as well as women too. The women are forced to run away from their homes to save themselves from the physical abuse of men, forced to die because of their husband’s second marriage, elope with others due to the atrocities of their mother-in-law and commit suicide to escape from the torture of people after being widow in their early lives.

g) *I grabbed the opportunity and sneaked in to Krishna Maya’s house. I found her lying on the ground. Her body was cut and bruised all over. The blood in her nose had dried. She was laying face-up on the ground. (p. 34)*

Sushmita grabs the opportunity and sneaks into Krishna Maya’s house to see what had happened to her after the conflict between Krishna Maya and her husband. She finds Krishna Maya lying on the ground. Her body was cut and bruised all over. The blood from her nose had dried. This depicts how women are dominated by men and how domination continues in the society. The men want women to be bounded by the four walls of the house and work as a slave to them. The women can’t protest against men and tolerate all the sufferings that men give them.

h) *“Yes, I have certainly lost of my mind darling,” he said passionately like a cobra with his ugly head raised high, he was all set mentally and physically to pounce on me. In the light of the candle and of the moon, I could see a blaze of lust and intoxication in his eyes that were focused on my body. I could also see, in the light, a stern face bereft of all shame and dignity, and lips aflame with wild passion. Like that of a blood thirsty predator ready to tear its prey apart, he had his claws fully outstretched. And exactly the way the flickering candle-light was doing in the room, I was shivering at the silhouetted sight of his brutal figure. Before I could utter a single word of alarm, he blew the candle out and grabbed me in his arms. The moon light, through the window, was shining upon us. He tightened his grip on me. Paying no heed to any of prayers or protests, he began raping me. (letter-93)*

Here, Sweetie is raped by a man who is her co-worker. She could not protest and fight with the man and was forced to be a victim of this male-dominated society. This shows how men dominate women and fulfill their desires whereas women are bound to be victims, remain silent and bear all the pains and sufferings. Women are prey to men and men act as the predators.

i) *“Please see for yourself. We worked hard for a whole month; we fell trees with our own hands and carried the wood from the forest till here. We carried stones on our backs. We had thus been able to get a thatched house built to serve us as our office. But some devil- incarnate has set it ablaze. Who can stand this? They have done this with an intention of belittling all we women-folks and our achievements.” (p. 104)*

In this extract, women of the village fell trees, carried the wood, carried the stones and were able to build a thatched house to serve them as their office but he men couldn't stand the progress of women and destroyed the house. This gives idea of men being always jealous of women's progress as men can never dominate women once they become capable and self-reliant.

j) *“A young man from her village had lured her and had first taken her to Kathmandu. From Kathmandu, he had taken her to Gorakhpur where the girl’s father had luckily found her. From Gorakhpur, the man had a plan to take her to Calcutta (to sell her there).” (p. 107)*

Here, a young man lures a girl, daughter of Seti Tamangni, from her village and takes her to Kathmandu and then to Gorakhpur. Fortunately before she was taken to Calcutta to be sold, she was found by her father. Like this, in our society many girls are being trafficked and sold to other countries. They are bound to live their lives as prostitute.

k) *Devi Prasad had visited the ‘field’ for a short visit and had prepared some negative report against my works. On his return from the site, he had lodged a complaint to the office of the Resident Representative, against me. As a consequence, I had been called for an explanation. (p. 147)*

In this extract, Devi Prasad prepares some negative reports against the work of Sushmita. He files a complaint and she has to give explanation to the office of Resident Representative. This shows domination of men upon women and men’s insecurity in working under women.

l) *She continued, “As there was no provision for citizenship, in the law, for a person whose father was not a citizen of Nepal, there was no chance Saswat ever getting his citizenship. Therefore the only recourse left for me was to allow my elder brother to adopt him. What can there be more ironical than this?”*

“Isn’t this an injustice perpetrated by the state upon all the rape victims like me?” She asked with a vengeance in her voice. (p. 221)

In this extract, the condition of women whose husband either leaves them and run away or who are raped is demonstrated where their children are deprived from getting citizenship of the nation in name of their mothers. This shows how government and the nation are unfair to the women of the same nation.

4.1.4 Women's Rights

Women's rights are important for women empowerment. Here, six extracts related to women's rights have been presented as below:

a) *"With a view to stoke up her confidence, I told her. It is always believed that it is only men- folks that can accomplish big undertakings. Now it is our turn to prove that women are no less their accomplishment."*(p. 7)

In this extract, Sushmita advices Sweety to work hard and accomplish big undertakings in order to prove men that woman are not any more inferior and weak. Women should not consider themselves inferior and weak to men bus should be ready to undertake any kinds of woks that men does and thinks women can't do. Women should prove men wrong in order to get their rights.

b) *"We women must be able to raise our voices against this status-quo. We need to have the guts to wage a war against the abuse meted out to we women by the men-folks, against all the mentality that treats women as an object of luxury and against all the conventions that work against the welfare of women. Women must step forward and fight for their rights and for their identity," I sounded like I was delivering a speech. (p. 8)*

Here, Sushmita talks to Sweety about women's rights. She says that in order to get their rights they will have to wage a war against the abuse that men do to them. They have to fight against the mentality of men taking women as object of luxury. They have to fight against all the conventions that wok against the women. Only then women's right was possible for all.

c) *"I guess I can be of some help to you. It is boring for me staying home all day without doing anything .What use my Master's Degree of it I have to stay home, with my hands tied." I asked him. (p. 13)*

In this extract, Sushmita tells her husband that she has passed Master's Degree but has to stay at home doing nothing and only looking after the home. Her

Master's Degree Certificate has no value. This is the case with most of the women in our society where they besides having good education are not allowed to be involved in any kinds of job. This shows that women are not getting their overall rights to be free and independent.

d) The leader of the group was very excited. She told Prabhat, "We have been able to generate income for ourselves only after we joined this Women's Program .we don't, anymore, need to extend our begging hands before our husbands. It's not just that; as members of the program we work with the spirit of mutual cooperation and mutual understanding as well. Therefore, no one in the village dares exploiting us or looking down upon us, these days." (p. 85)

Here, the happiness that the women of the village felt after being able to generate some income for themselves and their family is shown. They express that they don't need to extend their begging hands before their husbands. All the people in the village do not dare exploit and look down upon them after they earn for their living. This shows the importance for women to be involved in works where they can earn for their living and gain respect from others.

e) But when mother heard the words of dissent and disagreement from my mouth, she reasoned with me, "Why not so? Aaparna, after all, is their only daughter. Why can't a daughter be gifted with some jewelry and some other items when the son is legally entitled to all his parent's property? They have so much money with them; so what's wrong in buying a small plot of land as a security measure for their daughter?" (p. 121)

This extract shows present disparity between son and daughter in their family which has become the root cause of gender disparity in society and nation. The sons are inherited with all the property of their parents where daughters are not given a single penny. The daughter after marriage has no right upon their birth home. So, all girls should be inherited with some property of their parents to show equality among the children of the same parents.

f) *And she added, “In the absence of a father, like in Saswat’s case, the state should see that the child is entitled to his citizenship through his mother’s citizenship if she is a Nepal citizen.” (p. 221)*

Here, it is emphasized that children of such women whose husband are no more with them should be provided citizenship from the name of their mother. It is women rights as a citizen of a country to provide her children citizenship from her name.

4.1.5 Women’s Place in Society

Women’s place refers to existence or position of the women in the society. Its main concern is related to how women are perceived by the people in the society. Here, five extracts related to women’s place in the society in the novel have been presented as below:

a) *One night, he returned home at the strike of twelve. He was totally drunk. He looked at me with his eyes that were smoldering with the fire of anger, and he told me, “Susmita, you are of no use to me anymore. You have no place in my life. You are fit to be in a trash-bin.” He looked at me with his eyes full of hatred. Then he cocked his slightly and spoke in English, “you have lost value in my eyes. You are just my bed-partner, nothing more. You lousy woman!” (p. 15)*

In this extract, it is shown that when women fights for their rights and when they try to bring some changes in their life, men always becomes obstacles and treat women with eyes and heart full of hatred. The women no more has any value to them and they are taken as lousy who remains only a bed-partner to the men.

b) *Women were physically abused by men. Women were still treated like animals.(p. 32)*

In this extract, domination upon women by men is revealed where women are physically abused and treated like animals by men. Men dominates women by being physically strong, rough, tough and showing no mercy to the women.

c) *“When I had protested to his touching the parts of my body, he got incensed and bawled, did I bring you as my wife just to worship you? I have brought you to my house to make a wife of you.” And he started beating me again.*” (p. 35)

In this extract, Krishna Maya protests he husband from being physical and in turn gets beating from her husband. This shows that men take women as object to fulfill sexual desire. Men want women to make them happy always and do whatever they wish them to do. So, women are taken as object to get happiness by fulfilling their desires by men.

d) *“Is my pension money not enough for the survival of the two of us? Why do you actually need to work?” He asked me again.* (p. 39)

In this extract, Captain tells Krishna Maya that she does not need to do any work as his pension is enough for the survival of the two of them. This depicts how working of women and being involved in any kinds of work is taken as an insult for the men in patriarchal society. Therefore, the women’s place is taken always inferior, dependent and a slave to men.

e) *“It is the same story everywhere, ‘the story of exploitation perpetrated against women. Women are subjected to untold miseries wherever they are. They are called ‘good-for nothings’ or ‘dumbs’ if they stay back at their homes. But if they try and do something worthwhile outside their houses they are branded ‘smart alecks’. A woman is called a ‘rebel’ if she speaks out her grievances but is treated like a foot-mat if she keeps quiet. There is just no easy escape for her.”* (p. 106)

This extract reveals the women’s present status in the society where they are called ‘good-for nothings’ and ‘dumbs’ if they stay back at their homes. But if

they try and do something worthwhile outside their houses they are branded 'smart alecks'. A woman is called a 'rebel' if she speaks out her grievances but is treated like a foot-mat if she keeps quiet. Therefore, a woman whatever she does is not taken positively by men.

4.1.6 Role of Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a system of social construction in which males' role is primary and domination everywhere and every matter as women's role as secondary and inferior. Patriarchy is regarded as an aspect of feminism as it plays vital role in determining women empowerment and rights. Here, eight extracts related to role of patriarchy in the novel have been presented as below:

a) *And pointing her finger towards a group of young men seated in the verandah of a nearby shop, she added, "Just take look at that shop. Those men there either pass their times playing cards or drinking local liquor. What a bid disparity in the lives of men and women."* (p. 7)

In this extract, Sushmita tells that the group of young men in the village passes their time by playing cards or drinking local liquor. She mentions that the society has always discriminated men and women. This depicts our society where men pass time drinking alcohol and playing cards. Just the opposite there is no any fun in the lives of women who are always busy with their household chores. This depicts the role of patriarchy in our society where men rule over women and always like to have fun in their lives.

b) *"That's hardly your business. Can't you see, I have been working day and night?" He frowned at me and his voice sounded very rude. I was speechless.* (p. 23)

Here, Avinash scolds Sushmita when he is questioned about earning a lot of money in a short period of time. This shows how men in patriarchal society treats women and shows themselves superior and head of the family. Men are

involved in different illegal works too in order to earn money but women are not allowed to do legal works also.

c) *“Some men have Hitler like tendencies in them. They are subconsciously guided by some kind of psychological malformation that makes them think they are always superior to women. Therefore, the victims of such sadist mentality try to demonstrate their superiority by committing all kinds of atrocities against women,”* *Sweety opined (p. 33)*

In this extract, Sweety tells Sushmita that the men in patriarchal society show very cruel (Hitler like) tendencies towards women. They are guided by psychological malformation of thinking women always inferior. They commit all kinds of atrocities against women to show themselves as superior as a result of their sadist mentality and patriarchal conceptions.

d) *“I had walked a good distance today. Why don’t you get some oil and massage my legs?”* *the old captain asked me. (p. 68)*

In this extract, Captain orders his wife to get some oil and message his legs as he had walked a good distance that day. This shows how men in patriarchal society behaves women as inferior, dependent and weak both physically and mentally.

e) *...Afflicted as he was with an inferiority complex for having to work under women, he was always after me finding my faults, and looking out for a chance to humiliate me.*

It was not only him but even Harihar was in Devi Prssad’s footsteps. He behaved the same way as Devi Prasad did, especially after I was promoted to the post of Program Director. He would turn sullen and grumpy whenever his eyes fell on me. (p. 139)

Here, Sushmita is always humiliated by men who work under her. They turn sullen and grumpy upon seeing her. This shows women are not respected and

valued by men although they work in a senior post to them which is the result of patriarchal thoughts and beliefs.

f) *“Of course we did. We tried everything possible. The only recourse left for me now is an artificial insemination. But the problem is that my husband doesn’t at all agree to this method of child bearing. He says that he can’t accept someone else’s baby as his. How nonsense of him, don’t think so?”*
(p. 185)

In this extract, Swetchya and her husband tried all ways to bear a child but failed. The failure was due to the infertility of the husband. She tries to persuade her husband to bear a child through artificial insemination but the husband denies to this method of child bearing. This is also a result of our patriarchal beliefs where men can never accept a child born from artificial insemination.

g) *“Don’t you think you are responsible towards these children of yours?”*
like a poisonous snake ready to attack, I was literally hissing before him.

“The kids are the product of your desire and wishes,” he said very shamefully, thus ridding himself of all his responsibilities. (p. 26)

Here, Sushmita asks Avinash if he has some responsibilities towards his children or not. He then gets rid of his responsibilities by saying that the children were the product of her desire and wish and she has to look after the children. This defines how men in patriarchal society are not responsible towards their duties and responsibilities. They are free and careless in every matter.

h) *He then, at last, declared, “I can leave you and this house for good but not her.” (p. 26).*

Here, Avinash tells Sushmita that he can leave her and the house but not the other woman he has been in affair with. This shows how men take women as object to fulfill their physical desire. They consider the beauty of women only for having relationship which is the outcome of patriarchal thoughts and beliefs.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis and discussion of the novel from feminist perspective, the major findings, the conclusion of this study and the recommendations are provided as follows:

5.1 Findings

The purpose of my study was to identify the aspects of feminism in the novel “Samanantar Aakash”. From the analysis of the extracts of the novel, I have drawn some findings which are put forward as follows:

- i. Female are subject to patriarchal domination in many societies. They are dominated sexually, politically, economically and culturally by Nepalese society.
- ii. Females have been oppressed and dominated in Nepalese societies due to social, cultural, economic and religious rules and conventions. Society, culture and religion are prime factors to create gender discrimination, gender inequality, and oppress women from their rights.
- iii. In patriarchal society women have internalized their stereotypical roles that make their own marginalization. They are satisfied with their submissive roles, motherliness and domesticated lives, having dull as well as nullified existence. They are compelled to do what patriarchy wishes them to do.
- iv. The society and social aspects like religion, laws and other social institutions favours the males where females are taken as secondary position in the society. In this case, males are regarded as a strong, brave, rational and outgoing and females are regarded as a soft, emotional, weak, home sitting etc.
- v. Females have been dominated and discriminated by the society and the males misbehave them as their object of show, luxury and lust.

- vi. Women rights and freedom have been restricted in the society.
- vii. Women have been categorized as secondary citizens, inferior and weaker, unintellectual, servants and only object for entertainment to males.
- viii. Females have been oppressed and dominated in the world due to the social, cultural and religious and beliefs of patriarchal societies.
- ix. Females have been oppressed and dominated everywhere from home to institutions and workplaces.
- x. Females have been treated as animals. They are not given rights to live their lives freely and independently.
- xi. Females have to work in household things from their early ages such as to take care of young children.
- xii. Women have been suppressed even by the so called higher, educated, civilized and respected class and race in societies.
- xiii. Females have been dominated not only by men but by females too.
- xiv. Although Nepalese people are educated, civilized and from respected class, they could not have been freed from patriarchal system. So, they always see the women or females weaker, feeble, less valuable, uncivilized and un-intellectual. Thus, the domination upon women could not be removed from Nepalese society.

5.2 Conclusion

From this study, it is concluded that there are many aspects of feminism like social, cultural, religious, oppression and domination upon women, women rights, freedom and existence and patriarchy. Women have been dominated and treated differently due to these various aspects. They have been dominated and discriminated in every sector, from home to social institutions and workplaces. These aspects play vital role to create gender inequality in the society, which is

one of the main cause of society to be underdeveloped. When the societies remain undeveloped, a nation cannot develop. Men and women are the two wheels of a cart. Men and women both should have equal rights and responsibilities to uplift the standard of their family, society and nation and both are equally important for development like the two wheels of a cart to function properly.

Therefore, there should be the end of gender inequality and biasness to develop the societies and nation. Until and unless the gender discrimination exists in the homes and societies, we will never get to see cheers, happiness and development in family, societies and in the nation as well. It is essential to remove gender discrimination and oppression from our societies to create a well-developed country and to build our nation as the happiest nation. For this we must start the mission to change patriarchal perceptions from our own mind, home, village, society and nation, then only it will be possible to maintain gender equality. Injustice, exploitation, biasness and discrimination upon women need to be reformed for the transformation of the societies and nation. The social, cultural, religious and racial discrimination between men and women should be erased and the men and women should be treated equal. We need to restructure the societies and advocate women empowerment for sustainable development.

5.3 Recommendations

On the basis of the deduced findings and conclusion, the policy, practice and further research related recommendations are provided as follows:

5.3.1 Policy Related

Educational policy makers or language policy makers need to enhance and include the feminist literature in the courses of language or literature. Feminist literature will be helpful to establish gender equality by removing gender

inequality, domination and exploitation upon females. It will be helpful to flourish women rights.

5.3.2 Practice Related

This study provides the following practice related recommendations:

- i. Both teachers and students should behave equally to both males and females in classes, schools and even in their homes and societies.
- ii. Literary texts should be explained from the perspective of feminism because most of the literary texts have the aspects of feminism directly or indirectly.
- iii. Teachers and students should be aware of gender sensitive language.
- iv. Feminist literature is helpful to establish justice and equality in society. So it would be better to include feminist literature in language courses.
- v. The literary texts need to be analyzed from feminist perspective in teaching learning process.
- vi. Teachers and students of twenty first century need to remove the concept of superstitious traditional beliefs for the transformation of society.

5.3.3 Further Research Related

This study is only limited on the aspects of feminism. Language and styles used by males and females in Samanantar Aakash can be other issues of feminism which needs to be studied to expand the knowledge about feminism.

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