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Crossing Patriarchal Boundaries in Wharton's *The House of Mirth*

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Durga Dahal has accomplished his thesis entitled "Crossing Patriarchal Boundaries in Wharton's *The House of Mirth*" under my supervision. She completed her research work in April 2023. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for *viva voce*.

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Letter of Approval

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Crossing Patriarchal Boundaries in Wharton's The House of Mirth

Abstract

The present paper analyzes an American novel entitled "Crossing Patriarchal Boundaries in Wharton's The House of Mirth" authored by prominent American Novelist, Wharton. It is a social and political motion that defends women's privileges primarily based totally on femininity egalitarianism. It covers the whole thing from social and political to monetary spheres. In fact, feminist campaigns had been an essential part of the records of women's identity. Wharton's The House of Mirth indicates characters' audaciousness and vitality in every activity. In the play, females are engaged efficient works. They are shown as constructive characters. They are energetic at the same time as men are passive. There is the reversal of conventional masculinity function concept. The thesis mainly studies Wharton's, protagonist Lily's and her ambitious friends. All lady characters do not limit with traditional the gender roles which have been imposed via way of means of patriarchy. Being a lady playwright, Edith respects her lady protagonists. She places her female protagonist in productive works.

The novel is set in 20th-century American society. By applying theory of the feminism in the novel, the research concludes with the findings that if females cross patriarchal limitation, they also can do far better in the society and nation.

Key Words: Femininity, masculinity, gender roles, patriarchal limitation, conventional.

Crossing Patriarchal Boundaries in Wharton's *The House of Mirth*

In Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, this thesis examines the empowerment role played by women. This study contends that the ladies enable themselves by testing the overall generalizations about ladies. Female protagonists engage in activities outside of the home. They independently select suitable husbands. The stock market is where they put their money. They host parties for their closest friends. They work as bank secretaries to get work experience and prove themselves.

The novel is set basically in Belmont. The story takes place in the beginning of the twentieth century. Females are empowered in their own private sense and subjective experience of their own gender as they cross the patriarchal border. This is typically referred to as a private belief that one is male or female and primarily consists of accepting one's gender. Women's empowerment in relation to other members of society can be formed on the basis of a society's gender categories. In most societies, men's and women's characteristics are fundamentally different. Numerous feminists have attempted self-reconstruction in an effort to establish consciousness through various means of expression. In a world where there are cultural misunderstandings, they tell the story of self-pain and self-fulfillment.

In patriarchy, females were restricted to have property in their own names, engage in business, or control the disposal of their children. They are taken to be as second sex, inferior, passive, weak, a body especially designed to engineer the domestic life only. In patriarchy, there is a belief that men are superior to in terms of economic, politic and social sectors. In other words, to make women powerless, patriarchal society denies them from the educational and occupational factors.

Wharton being an educated and renowned writer shows female empowerment in Wharton's *The House of Mirth*. She subverting the gender roles are in terms of class, society, politics and decision making body. In the novel, female protagonists are not restricted to have their own properties and engage in own business has not become second sex, inferior, passive and weak. In Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, female protagonists are not shown in kitchen and dining room. Modern women are educated and self-dependent. They do not follow patriarchal domination. They themselves choose their boys to get marry. In the novel too, Lily herself chooses herself future husband. Modern girls like Lily and Judy, they have their own wealth. They do not only restrict on household work. So, Lily has been showed to work as a secretary. To be rich, Lily also invests money by asking money from her best friend, Judy. They invite party and also attend on other party. Judy to unite with her friends, she gives party regularly.

Men are not supposed to be better than women when it comes to female empowerment. In positions of economic, political, and social power, men and women become equal. However, in male centric society, ladies esteem themselves basically through their looks and capacity to have total opportunity. The concept of gender is created to oppress females in a society dominated by men. To put it another way, gender-based inequalities that portray men as powerful and women as powerless are facilitated by the patriarchy. Gender is a psychological and cultural construct that emerges as a result of socialization, whereas sex is biological.

Females gain social and economic empowerment as a result of crossing gender roles. A process that is fair to both men and women is gender equality. Policies and measures that compensate for women's historical and social disadvantages, which prevent women and men from acting on an equal footing,

must frequently be implemented to confirm fairness. Equality comes from justice. Equal access to socially beneficial products, opportunities, resources, and rewards is necessary for gender equality. In a society dominated by men, female empowerment is lacking. It has been asserted that men and women were innately superior. In this way, biological essentialism was born out of patriarchy. Because it is based on the biological differences between men and women, which are seen as part of our invariant nature as men and women, it encourages the idea of women having an inferiority complex.

In a similar vein, patriarchy has established the discriminatory belief that gender is internalized as a natural concept despite the fact that men and women are portrayed in social programming in the same way. At the point when orientation imbalance exists, it is generally females who are excluded or burdened as far as independent direction and admittance to monetary and social assets. As a result, giving women more freedom to live their lives, recognizing and resolving power imbalances, and advancing gender equality all depend on women's empowerment. The primary objective of the developing women's activist development is to change the predominant female generalizations of society into somewhat frail, detached and subordinate people who are less sane and profound than men. It aims to give women more freedom to work while maintaining their financial and psychological independence.

When *The House of Mirth* was written, America was going through a lot of turmoil and change at the beginning of the 1900s. The novel was very different from the majority of American novels written at the time, which were mostly written by men but also mostly about women's experiences in their domestic lives. Wharton was inspired by New Woman novels published in England rather than

writing about a woman's responsibilities at home. She saw women and men as equals. Wharton's response to this society's expectations of women around her was to challenge the oppressive social conventions in her writing and give women a voice through her brave female character. Lily's is valued asset was her strength of mind. Self-discipline become essential, as while deserted it turned into a signal that one had fallen to a decreased fame. However, when living negative and lonely have become an excessive amount of for Lily, she broke down crying "she did not weep easily, and the long habit of self-control reasserted itself, though she was still too tremulous to speak" (88). At the same time, Lily's long dependency of self-discipline was stifling as it managed her: she loved Selden but turned into unable to specific her actual feelings to him.

In Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, female characters are bold, active and energetic. The protagonist, Lily Bart, is very bold. She searches a bold husband on her own. For this reason, even though she is very attractive and has multiple connections and high status in society, she prefers to postpone her marriage until she finds a rich husband. Lily is proposed by many young men and but she always thinks the candidate is not wealthy enough, and she rejects. She stays unmarried till late twenties: "Younger and plainer girls had been married off by dozens, and she was nine-and-twenty, and still Miss Bart" (Wharton 40). In fact, Bart is an attractive woman with some important social and family ties she is 29, she is still not married. After her death, she stays with with her aunt, Mrs. Peniston. Sometimes Lily spends much of her time staying at the Belmont and plays bridge ho madam She plays the card game with her best friend, Judy. Judy regularly give expensive for upper class people and her friends.

Lily has a gambling addiction and cannot stop gambling, even though it ruins her financially. Lily hears about the stock market at the Bellomont and decides to invest. She asks her friend Judy to invest money. Later Lily herself chooses George to marry. Later she leaves him as she knows that George is poor. She takes up jobs as a secretary. She has much debt due to gambling but later from her secretary job, she pays all. Later she does not get sleep and starts eating sleeping pills, on this day she takes an overdose. Due to overdose of the pills, she passes away.

The House of Mirth has been analyzed from various perspectives such as Marxism, Existentialism, and Feminism in terms of issues, disparity between appearance and reality. There are some critics also who observe this work from some perspectives. In the novel, females are marginalized and dominated by males. In this regard, Cynthia Griffin Wolff opines:

Wharton and her novel, *The House of Mirth* as an equal opportunity satirist who highlights in on middle class Americans who ignore their roots.

Wharton speaks fast, is quick on her feet and yet chooses her words carefully, correcting herself or going off the record when the conversation becomes the slightest bit controversial. It should come as no surprise. (6)

Woolf means that Wharton's novel aims to satirize patriarchal world and shows independency of Middle class American. Similarly, Frost Marlin takes it as a feminist's sense, So he argues, "*The House of Mirth* by Wharton describes her own intense desire to redrawing the boundary of male world" (71). Marlin believes that Wharton writes novels in order to make female empowerment. She tries to reshape the male dominated society showing female protagonists activeness and boldness in the novel.

The novel truly exposes the reality of modern girls. The girls in order to forget bitter past, they are habituated to take drugs or other pills. Ross C Murfin states, "*The House of Mirth* is an honest and heartbreaking book that vent out Lily's overdose sleeping death" (4). This book is honest and heartbreaking. Lily and Judy go through different things, but to get through each and every one of them she is to be true to herself, she trusts herself, and she has the strength to love what makes her heart happy. The novel is very interesting to read because her plot is soundly constructed. Smith Roy argues, "I actually thought the book was going to end differently" (19). Roy means that the book is really interesting to read and audience does not feel to read. As a reader, he himself feels that the novel is quite interesting to read. Similarly, Hazzard Celds opines:

Wharton writes in a prosaic form. This makes the book way more fun! She can make it be funny, suspenseful, or even look crazy with the different fonts she uses and at the point where she stops her sentences to make it more dramatic. *The House of Mirth* is a preposterous movie but not an unenjoyable one. If that sounds like faint praise, well, it is. (131)

He means that she wants to show herself as a strong woman portraying her female characters something having boldness. Similarly, understanding the subject of the novel is not too difficult. A greedy and material outlook on life may increase home anxiety and may be the driving force behind the lack of intimacy in tense family relationships. Distractions aimed at analysis raised by outside parties with an agenda to push. Iceman Kings claims:

Wharton and her novel, *The House of Mirth* presents the same theme that when a woman takes herself. Female characters are like a coastal rock cliff to resist the surging, crashing waves of cultural change. And there may be

no clearer demonstration of the Bible's immutable word than what it teaches about genuine femininity in any way raised the status of women in society.

(121)

Kingsley asserts that female characters of the novel are not so loyal in the male dominated society. So she compares her protagonists with coastal rock. Coastal rock stands for boldness, courage and so on. According to Susan Goodman, "in the society Wharton wrote about, girls were neither encouraged to marry for love nor to live an independent life. Women, were inferior to men and like children they were expected to be seen but not heard – or at any rate not listened to seriously" (3). In Wharton 's society, girls were not encouraged to live independent lives or to marry for love. Women were considered inferior to men and, like infants, were only expected to be seen, not heard, or at the very least, not given significant consideration.

In short, I think there should be an interrelationship between men and women, which is an urgent need for feminists today. Women's empowerment is the expansion of freedom of decision and action. It is related to increasing authority and facilitating resources and decisions. Empowerment occurs as women gain more control and participation in their decision-making roles.

The protagonists of the novel, *The House of the Mirth* resist patriarchal boundaries. In patriarchy, men undermine women by denying them access to education and work. Women have been regarded as inferior second-class since the dawn of human civilization, but women are an additional target for men to meet their desires and expectations of physical, sexual and spiritual service. Due to their sense of identity, women in patriarchal societies feel widespread oppression and oppression. Women in society are sometimes subject to objectification. In Edith

Wharton's novel *The House of Mirth*, Lily is an upper class woman living in New York. She organizes many parties and also invests money on share market.

The feminist movement has grown in popularity over the last decade. The result is both structural and racial equal opportunity for women in education, occupation and political participation. They have also had immense success in proving themselves. For example, for the past 20 years, women have been primarily in the teaching profession, but now that society has evolved significantly, women in the 21st century are on a par with men in every resume to do their best in the field of engineering. Pilots, soldiers and political leaders represent the dominant sectors of men in society. Nevertheless, men are also predisposed by women-dominated areas and have begun to provide engineering, nursing, cooking and arts and crafts services to break the gender limitations of the career.

In *The House of Mirth*, this holds true. Women are said to be equal to men, but are they are not treated in this exact manner. Lily tries to marry a rich man. Wharton's feminism is evident in how she treats Lily. Lily goes through society just by maintaining her appearance. Her beauty and appearance are all about this society. If you are beautiful, you go far in society, but Lily lacks only wealth.

In the novel, unlike traditional woman, modern women are free to choose their husband. Parents allow them to get marry with their chosen boys. In the novel, Lily Bard is so active so that she does not to get marry with clumsy husband. Later as she marriage with George who spends his time staying idle. So she reproaches her husband:

Mrs Bart's worst reproach to her husband was to ask him if he expected her to 'live like a pig'; and his replying in the negative was always regarded as a justification for cabling to Paris for an extra dress or two, and telephoning to

the jeweller that he might, after all, send home the turquoise bracelet which Mrs Bart had looked at that morning. Lily knew people who 'lived like pigs,' and their appearance and surroundings justified her mother's repugnance to that form of existence. (31)

Lily Bart is bold and active in the novel. She searches herself a wealthy husband with whom she loves to spend her entire life. She wants such a husband who lives like a pig. Once she loves jeweler and purposes him to get marry keeping a condition that he should be innocent and loyal to her. As he does not accept her proposal, she leaves him. In fact, she has postponed her marriage until she finds a suitable husband. She is purposed to get marry by many handsome middle class males but she only seeks handsome male. So she rejects many boys.

Lily could see that men were privileged in terms of having the chance to have their own living space. Selden's apartment with a "small library, dark but cheerful, with its walls of books, a pleasantly faded Turkey rug, a littered desk invited Lily to sink with a sigh into one of the shabby leather chairs" (6). She admires his place and lamented over her fate as a woman: "how delicious to have a place like this all to one's self! What a miserable thing it is to be a woman" (6). Nicely aware about gender related inequalities, Lily longed for the same opportunities as Selden, to select her own life.

Today females consider that they are as equal as male so that they behave them as a friend. As Simone de Beauvoir finds "man represents both the positive and the neutral, as is indicated by the common use of man to designate human beings in general; whereas woman represents only the negative, defined criteria, without reciprocity" (9). The man ruled the woman by his will and used her as a means to

promote his selfish satisfaction. Money and wealth are considered much higher than women's choices, votes, rights and lives.

However, in patriarchal societies, women are sexually exploited. In heterosexuality, men occupy the first or upper position. Social cognition was created as if a woman had a physical relationship with a man. They are believed to succumb to the rule of men. Men praised sex and made it bigger. Women's empowerment is undoubtedly great for women, as it means less oppression and oppression, equal rights and more choices in life.

While male dominance is found in many cultural systems around the world, Wharton portrays the character of women with new hopes and aspirations. It is easy for men to put pressure on women and negatively take advantage of women's social benefits in a male-dominated society. Women and gender studies contribute significantly to our understanding of the social and cultural world in which we live. Studying complex issues in this area has led to many important insights. Two important insights that have had a positive impact on our society are recognition through learning and recognition through this cognitive activity that can result. Women and gender studies courses have raised consciousness by reliably explaining the situations women are facing in today's world.

Modern girls don't worry about their age to get marry. They want to build up their career before marriage. In the novel, the main character of the novel, Lily, is an unmarried 29-year-old woman who wants to succeed in society. Her mission is to marry a relatively wealthy man and secure her financial stability and senior status in New York society. Her unfortunately, her desire to marry a wealthy man clashes with her feelings towards Lawrence Selden, the understated man she really loves. She also suffers from the inability to make her decision and misses some good

marriage opportunities in the hope that she can do better. Lily reached individual empowerment by saying her true feelings and protesting the strict rules set by her social ring. Her answer to Rosedale's proposal of marriage sums up her perspective:

It is not always easy to be quite independent and self-respecting when one is poor and lives among rich people; I have been careless about money, and have worried about my bills. But I should be selfish and ungrateful if I made that a reason for accepting all you offer, with no better return to make than the desire to be free from my anxieties. (157)

Lily defied society by upholding her integrity and being unwilling to make concessions, and this resistance gave her personal power. Lily wants to be married of her own free will after declining his offer. Yet, by resisting society, Lily showed that she valued her own self more than her social circle of friends. She considered blackmailing Bertha Dorset with her love letters to Selden, which would mean that Bertha Dorset would have to back her up "instead of trying to fight her" and Rosedale would then marry her (Wharton 225). Lily survives society simply by maintaining her appearance. Her beauty and appearance are all about the company:

She was nine-and-twenty, and still Miss Bart. She was beginning to have fits of angry rebellion against fate, when she longed to drop out of the race and make an independent life for herself. But what manner of life would it be? She had barely enough money to pay her dress-makers' bills and her gambling that makes her to feel ashamed. (40)

Truly, Lily Bart represents the empowered woman of the current age. She is below thirty but seem attractive putting cosmetic power. She is in a good position in society. But she wants to make them better by marrying a wealthy lady. She wants to get married after becoming independent. She has no money to pay for her

seamstresses because she lost much of her in gambling. However, she hopes that she will earn money and will be healthy lady. In fact, Lily has two main goals in the novel: marriage and wealth. She wants to marry a rich man and secure her position in her society, but because of her own indecision, she misses many opportunities and always thinks she can do better

Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* discloses the myth and reality of the universal understanding of masculinity versus feminists. She argues in her groundbreaking book that in the pastoral and nomadic period men and women had the same work, mostly hunting, gathering, and fishing. She writes, "Since nomadic time, females lost their identity" (12). She holds the view that the female's identity has been lost since the ancient time. Beauvoir believed that in the early days of agriculture, women's fieldwork talent was highly valued. It means that females should not follow patriarchal norms and value to achieve their identity. In nomadic time, they harbored patriarchal concept so that their stage in the society was lowly.

Gender studies seek equality between men and women and occupy most of the basic human rights. That means that men and women of all life walks have equal opportunities to realize their potential. We still face the issue of inequality today due to the permanent gap in access to opportunities for both men and women. Modern women are not just at home. As men, they lead a carefree life. They even have a new card sitting with a man. Lily is shown in her novel to have a playing card habit: "[I]t was her gambling that frightened Percy Gryceit seems he was really taken with her at first. But, of course, among Lily's friends it's quite the custom for girls to play for money. In fact, people are inclined to excuse her on that account' 'To excuse her for what?' and feels domineering feature of the male hood and so she discards" (99). Lily has so many friends, among them, she plays the card game

with her best friend, Judy. She is habituated to play it. So she is a gambler. It is her addiction. She loses much in bridge card game. However, taking a hope of winning, she goes on playing. She seems most of the time playing gambling at Bellamont with her friends. Like her, other girls too have the custom to play cards. For modern girls, inviting and attending parties are normal and common. They invite their selected friends and offer giant party. They are self-dependent so that they do not ask money with their husband or father to offer party

In patriarchy, male severely dominates females. Males are free to work outdoors while females have to stay inside and do lowly works like housekeeping tailoring, receiving phone, etc. The character of Lily reflects some feminist elements while sense of independence is reflected in Lily's determination in making judgments on her own. She decides to stay single and faces every obstacle boldly. Unlike the other women of the nineteenth century, Lily does not follow what the males tell her to do. Instead, she dares to question everything that her male counterparts say. Lily independently makes decisions of her own and takes responsibility for those decisions as well.

The feminist elements of Lily's independence have helped not only to be a mature and responsible person but also to evolve her into a better person eventually. Lily counters the prevailing patriarchal norms and thereby makes herself a radical female protagonist. Modern females if they are frustrated and stressed in their life, they take the alternate step. Some of them take wine, cigarettes and drugs. In the novel too, Lily as she does not get sleep, she is habituated to take wine and sleeping pills:

The doctor found a bottle of chloral she had been sleeping badly for a long time, and she must have taken an over-dose by mistake. There is no doubt of

that no doubt here will be no question he has been very kind. I told him that you and I would like to be left alone with her to go over her things before anyone else comes. I know it is what she would have wished. (Wharton 316)

Like males, Lily takes wine to forget her loan. As she cannot pay her debts, she does not get sleep and takes sleeping chloral pills. Once, she uses overdose pill that becomes a cause of her death. As she is about to die, in her face, there is no any sadness. She boldly accepts the death and dies in her own apartment.

Women's identities in patriarchy are created by men, but they are transparent and unclear. In either case, a number of factors can be negotiated. The result is a fusion or hybrid of identities that cannot be seen as an expression of something new, not as a product of the assimilation of one culture or tradition with another. It becomes clear that identities are fluid. Gender equality is the idea and situation that women and men are not equal, and the relationship with empathy is impartiality.

In a sense, women are oppressed and their cultural identity has played a decisive role in all patriarchal societies and has fundamentally changed their world. She continues to be a very powerful and creative force in new forms of expression among those who have been marginalized. In a male-dominated society, women are generally not allowed to receive a good education. Repression is difficult or uncomfortable to deal with. However, in the play, women are not oppressed. Novelist shows female empowerment through the novel. She presents many characters being active and bold. For example, her female protagonist Judy holds many parties:

To set her doubts at rest, Miss Bart, soon after the New Year, 'proposed' herself for a week-end at Bellomont. She had learned in advance that the presence of a large party would protect her from too great assiduity on

Trenor's part, and his wife's telegraphic 'come by all means' seemed to assure her of her usual welcome. Judy received her amicably. The cares of a large party always prevailed over personal feelings, and Lily saw no change in her hostess's manner. (127)

Judy is self-dependent. She gives many parties to her friends. She never forgets to call her best friend, Lily. All of her guests show great respect to her sound party. All of her lady's friends belong to upper class. She has another friend, Mrs. Trenor, who always attends parties.

In patriarchy, females are forced to endure negative abilities like a witch, siren and so on. So, due to males' nature of defining females, they have to limit themselves in household activities of nursing, caring, washing and so on. In patriarchy, gender stereotype is a generalized view or preconception about attributes or characteristics, or the roles that are or ought to be possessed by, or performed by women and men. A gender stereotype is harmful when it limits women's and men's capacity to develop their personal abilities, pursue their professional careers and make choices about their lives. Example of wrongful gender stereotyping is the failure to criminalize marital rape based on societal perception of women as the sexual property of men, and the failure to effectively investigate, prosecute and sentence sexual violence against women based on, e.g., the stereotype that women should protect themselves from sexual violence by dressing and behaving modestly.

Patriarchy is a kind of social system in which families and societies are dominated by men as primary sources. Due to patriarchy, women were at a disadvantage in many areas of life, including employment, family life, crime, health, education and the media. This has led sociologists to explore the causes of gender inequality and how it is reflected in and in society. Feminists will agree that

patriarchy is the root cause of gender inequality, but feminist schools are different and these different thinking schools have different views. Feminism strives to achieve greater freedom for women to work and remain financially and psychologically independent. In traditional patriarchy, older men dominated the younger generation. In the play, females hold more power by virtue of position of author, and this hierarchy of power is considered acceptable. In patriarchy, females lose their identity. Regarding the true identity of female in society, Simone de Beauvoir remarks:

One is not born, but rather becomes a woman. No biological, psychological or economic fate determine the figure that the human female presents in society; it is civilization as a whole that produces this creature, intermediate between male and eunuch, which is described as feminine that male behaves as a matter of fantasy and led toward female self-consciousness fragile lacking. (25)

She is trying to say the one becomes a woman, not one is born as a woman. In traditional societies, women were restricted to owning property in their own name, doing business, or managing their children's tendencies. In addition to this man's monopoly in patriarchal society, women are sexually exploited. In heterosexuality, men occupy the first or upper position. When a woman has a physical relationship with a man, there has been a social cognition that makes her think that she is succumbing to the rule of the man. So men beautified sex and made it bigger. Identity recognition is undoubtedly great for women. It ignites oppression and the fire of oppression and fights for equality and more opportunities in life. In Wharton's novel, "Society is a revolving body which is apt to be judged according to its place in each man's heaven; and at present it was turning its illuminated face

to Lily" (Surname 44). Lily is at the height of her confidence in searching for a husband. She thinks that husband is her own so that she herself seeks suitable husband to her.

However, it may also have exacerbated women's identity crisis by adding more distinctiveness. According to Erikson Erik, the identity crisis is caused by the loss of "a sense of personal sameness and historical continuity" (17). For individuals in women's groups, post-war liberation increased opportunities for life, but faced various dilemmas that challenged their original role and created uncertainty. Liberation does not necessarily mean women's freedom. In the novel, Lily has been sinking lower and lower into poverty and despair. Lily reflects, "I wasn't meant to be good" (99). Lily is searching to admit that despite her best hard work, luck has been against her, and she may never be rich and admired.

In patriarchy, women are seen from the perspective of social orientation on behalf of men. They say that their happiness lies in leaving everything to the service of men. This means that dedication and service to her home and her husband is her sole responsibility. Men consider themselves robust and women frail in work, gender and society. So his spirit makes him cruel and dominates women. Freedman says:

Sexuality, then, is a form of power. Gender as socially constructed embodies it, not the reverse. Women and men are divided by gender made into the sexes, as we know them, by the social requirements of heterosexuality, which institutionalize male sexual dominance and female sexual submission.

If this is true, sexuality is linchpin of gender inequality. (60)

Even in these very complex times, women still appear to be unhappy, not directly, as our society moves towards liberalization that suppresses the independent role of

women increases. This crisis is primarily driven by globalization, perceptions that trigger migration experiences, changes in the relationship between the West and other cultures, and a sense of identity for those who have lived across national borders. Similarly, Mira Sen argues that "the concept of identity is vent and lay out for crisis that haphazardly makes people status quo with ever ending stagnant" (109). The notions suggest a connection to the racial and ethnic identities that society has created over time. In female empowerment, females are seen high post. They are lawyer, pilot and engineer. To develop their career, they engage in productive work. In Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, Lily to be self-dependent, she works as a secretary:

Miss Bart's guidance was required; her ostensible duties as secretary being restricted by the fact that Mrs. Hatch, as yet, knew hardly anyone to write to. The daily details of Mrs. Hatch's existence were as strange to Lily as its general tenor. The lady's habits were marked by an Oriental indolence and disorder peculiarly trying to her companion. (268)

Lily works as a secretary to be financially strong. She even easily dissolves with her male staffs. They also take her as their colleague. Later, Bart and her friend, Mrs. Hatch are competing to be best for the office. Lily works well and thinks to be better secretary than Hatch.

In male dominated society, the woman is taken to another man with his negative comments. Feminists also raise issues of race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, and age differences between men and women, and between women. But the bottom line is that only women need to raise and give birth to their babies and take care of them in order to bear the burden of feeling inferior to men. She is a

woman who gives birth but must accept being oppressed. Therefore, Samira Luitel argues:

Women as bearer and reader of children mostly worked inside household and were kept away from his inventions. Her outside activities was constrained die to her physical nature and also man's reluctance to involve her in his private business. With the advancement agricultural and small scale industries, woman was still limited to her own house stead. (13)

What the above passage is trying to say is that women have always been regarded as less important people. When a woman lives in a male-dominated society, she faces many difficulties. Without her husband in her life, it is a pathetic state of women in our society and she is not considered worthy of respect. Society finds mistakes in those who break the law, in other words, those who are violators of society. Therefore, in a male-dominated society or under male dogmatism, the role of women is seen through magnifying glass, and she is always watched by others, especially if she does not follow the rules established by the males.

Modern girls invest money in productive work. They are the owners of factories and companies. They are happy to have their wealth, buy homes and cars, and send their children to school. Lily learned about the Veromont Stock Exchange and she decided to participate in the investment. She asks the gas trainer to invest her small amount of money for her, and he is soon attracted to Lily and wants her to spend time with him. I suppose. The investment pays off, and when Lily begins to make money on Wall Street, she spends generously. Later, her terrible thing, her trainer tries to propose to her, and she finds out that he didn't invest her money-it's not-it's his own. Author's protagonist, Lily invests money in productive work:

She was too genuinely ignorant of the manipulations of the stock-market to understand his technical explanations, or even perhaps to perceive that certain points in them were slurred; the haziness enveloping the transaction served as a veil for her embarrassment, and through the general blur her hopes dilated like lamps in a fog. She understood only that her modest investments were to be mysteriously multiplied without risk to herself; and the assurance that this miracle would take place within a short time, that there would be no tedious interval for suspense and reaction, relieved her of her lingering scruples. (84)

In quoted lines, she means Lily who like a male is free. She does what her heart desire. To be rich, she researches stock market and invests money in the share stock or market. She regularly invests money in it. She even takes loan with her friends and invests it. She also asks her friend, Judy to invest money. So she is so bold, active and energetic girl.

Some features are clearly innate. Others are clearly environmental (other properties are either multifactorial or unknown). This is a difference in biological and / or physiological characteristics that is generally associated with male or female species. When it comes to classifying whether gender differences are due to sexual biology, human research raises socio-political issues. This article focuses on quantitative differences, including various mean based on gradients. For example, on average, men may be taller than women, but women may be taller than men. The presence of gender differences does not necessarily indicate whether the trait is due to nature or environment. Daniel Dennett writes: "modern humans have inherited natural traits that were adaptive in a prehistoric environment; including traits that had different advantages for males versus females" (110). He means that males and

females have different traits because both of them hold different traits that were in their forefather's time. The gender evolution sees gender dissimilarities as a result of strong sexual specialization that maintains relationships with previous generations and the environment.

In modern time, females love and leave many boys. In such activities, no one is questioned. It has become fashion. In patriarchy, only males are allowed to remarry and love girls. Today, like males, females also remarry and bring step husbands. It is often seen in developed countries. In this novel, Lily chooses to get married to a wealthy husband:

'Oh, I am it's much safer to be fond of dangerous people. But she *is* dangerous and if I ever saw her up to mischief it's now. I can tell by poor George's manner. That man is a perfect barometer he always knows when Bertha is going to' 'To fall?' Miss Bart suggested. 'Don't be shocking! You know he believes in her still. And of course I don't say there's any real harm in Bertha. Only she delights in making people miserable, and especially poor George.' (Wharton 45)

As Lily knows George real identity, he leaves her. She had loved him thinking that he is rich. As she knows that he is poor, she deserts him and goes to search another. Such female empowerment benefits both women and men. For example, while arguing that women need to make money freely, they also discuss why men should be the only earners in the family. She tries to give everyone freedom. Most importantly, it is imperative that young people participate in the feminist movement. In this way, it can get faster results. Living in a world full of equality is nothing but a dream.

Being a feminist, the author does not debase her characters ashamed. Like her, she shows her all characters bold and educated. Female protagonists have dignity and self-esteem. Lily and Judy are self-dependent. Lily has to lead a complicated life in order to maintain her upper-class status, as Wharton emphasized. She illustrates how her main character, Lily, is conflicted about choosing to marry for love rather than social standing, despite the fact that it is her "calling" to marry for money. Wharton challenges the idea that women were required to adhere to rigid social norms of behavior by illustrating how Lily is abandoned by society when she refused to fully embrace its expectations of her. She was not prepared or schooled to live on her own, thus she could not endure a life outside of society either. They have great aspiration to build their career best:

Lily carried the impression of Mrs. Fisher's leave-taking away with her from the Casino doors. She had accomplished, before leaving, the first step toward her reinstatement in Mrs. Bry's good graces. An affable advance vague murmur that they must see more of each other an allusive glance to a near future that was felt to include the Duchess as well as the Sabrina how easily it was all done. (195)

The quoted lines expose that female protagonists cross patriarchal norms and values. Like males, they spend whole night in casino and dance hall. Lily frequently visit casino with her female friends, Judy and Fisher. They are in lost however taking debt from their neighbor, they go to casino.

In fact, women's consciousness is the personal sensation and subjective experience of a person of their gender. This is generally described as a private feeling of being male or female and consists primarily of accepting that it belongs to the male or female category. Every society has a set of gender categories that can

serve as the basis for forming social consciousness in relation to other members of society. Gender inequality remains a major issue, and it is clear that women in the modern world are still struggling. But feminism has progressed over the years and is much more complex than it used to be. There are different types of feminism, some of which seem to contradict each other. To show female boldness, author makes her female characters active women, who cross the boundaries of patriarchy. Being a feminist novelist, her main goal of writing is to change the dominant perceptions and male's misrepresentation of women.

In patriarchy, females are considered less rational, emotionally weaker, passive and dependent than men. Feminism strives to achieve greater freedom for women to work and remain financially and psychologically independent. In traditional patriarchy, older men dominated the younger generation. Women are often stereotyped as domestic workers, consumers and caregivers, and these concepts are primarily related to femininity. This type of employment is less valuable than the traditional male role, not worth the high salary, and is often considered unrespectable. While working, women seem to tend to reduce the value and rewards of their work. It is unfair for women to work individually to gain the status of power in society. It is no overstatement to say that the power of society needs to be redistributed.

But in the novel, Lily represents woman of the writer's time. She involves in productive work but does not confine in cooking, nursing and caring her husband. She does not take help the of males to earn her living. However, in patriarchal world, male holds upper job while female has to do lowly post. But in the novel, Lily is holding the job of secretary.

In patriarchy, women lose their identity. They must obey discriminatory male norms and values while at home or in society. Most characters have new qualities and ultimately produce little happy and enjoyable experience in the mental and physical parts. Due to the massive domination of the male canonical world, they cannot find a meaningful role in society. As a female protagonist, Lily shows that women should empathize with women and oppose patriarchy. Lily's character has positive thoughts, good words, and real behavior. She is empowered so that she can have own car, apartment etc. She is socially reputed. As we analyze her entire activities, she has completely crossed patriarchal norms and values.

Female protagonists do not confine themselves to household activities. They choose suitable husbands on their own. They invest money on the share market. They invite their best friends to parties. To gain work experience and stand in their own leg, they do the job of secretary in banks. However, women, unlike these characters, are traditionally taken as caretakers. They have to keep their families running smoothly, manage their expenses as conservatively as possible, take care of their elderly in-law, and feed their children, and so on. They are expected to obey the orders of their husbands and elders.

To sum up, Female empowerment refers to the process of giving women the power and resources to make choices and control their lives. It involves providing women with the tools, education, and opportunities they need to achieve their goals, whether that be in the workplace, in their personal lives, or in society as a whole. There are many ways to promote female empowerment, including advocating for women's rights and gender equality, providing access to education and job opportunities, encouraging women to take on leadership roles, and supporting women in achieving their goals.

By empowering women, we can help to create a more just and equitable society where women are able to fully participate and contribute in all areas of life. This can lead to improved economic outcomes, stronger communities, and a better world for everyone.

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