

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This is the research entitled analysis of novel 'A Widows Gift' from a feminist perspective. This section of research proposal 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 key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Feminism refers to the range of political movement, ideologies and social movements which aims to break down the domination and discrimination of women which has been existing from the patriarchal culture (Tyson; 2006). From this view the main source of women discrimination is patriarchal culture which has been existed in many cultures in the world and feminism is the main source to analyze them critically. Similarly, the feminist Spivak (1998 p. 13) says, 'patriarchy has been achieved through historical forces'. Assuming her idea, I know that patriarchy has been existed through history and women have been dominated due to the patriarchy and conventional culture. In the context of Nepal, women have been bounded due to the rule of conventional culture which has been achieved through history. Such type cultural belief can be shown through literature.

From the review of previous studies related to feminist perspectives have shown that women have been discriminated from the male as well as from the female who have more power and they have been discriminated due to the conventional culture (Khatri; 2016, Bhatta; 2013). Similarly, Sharma (2017) also observed on feminist perspective in the translated autobiographical essay 'Jeevan Kanda ki Phool' and found that women have been discriminating from male dominated society. They are discriminated not only from male but also from female. However, this study was investigated how female have been

exploited in Nepalese Hindu culture? And will find out the reason, where the Nepalese girls have been backward to adjust in contextual world in selected literature.

When I read the selected novel I realized that women have got their different role to be dominated according to culture and rule of society, the novel expresses the conventional cultural context of Nepal. This types discrimination is prevailing now too in some part of Nepal. The women from the world have been running in movement of modernity but in the context of Nepal the women have been backward in every field due to the conventional belief. The author Shanti Mishra represented the female discrimination through this novel. She expresses the Hindu culture as the source of women discrimination and followers of such religion cannot give freedom for women those whom are suffered from her own pain 'widowhood'. She also included that the education for girls was sin for the society. Therefore, I noticed that reality of women domination in Nepal is represented through this novel. The women from this place or culture are backyard like other women.

There are many research have been conducted in feminist perspective from this department. I was conducted research on a novel 'A widow's Gift' from the perspective of feminism.

Introduction of novel 'A Widow's Gift'

A widow's Gift is a novel written by Shanti Mishra. Mishra was from Nepal and she published Novel in Indian publication. It was published on 2008 AD by pilgrim publishing Varanasi, India. It is novel about the story of widow girl. This novel carries an issue related to female. This novel expressed traditional Nepalese society and its superstition power. In the novel main character Radha has been faced various challenges as the name of widow. Radha faced difficulty to live freely in the society. The story of novel begins from the birth of Radha and ends with the death Radhaso; this novel carries the story of one

main character and her struggle within her life which was created by conventional culture male dominated society.

The novel is about Nepalese cultural context and view towards female was negative in this novel. It expressed the reality of Nepalese society and culture. Therefore, I motivated to conduct the research on analysis of novel 'A Widow's Gift'.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Women have been discriminating through patriarchal culture. Women have been victimized negatively by the conventional belief. Women have got various negative subname for the discrimination. Literature is the main source to share the issues related to female. Literature helps to share the culture and cultural issues. In this novel, main character Radha has faced various challenges from her society, those which society had been suffered from patriarchal culture or traditional belief. She wanted to change the rule of society and also wanted to provide the freedom to female by providing them proper education. Providing education for girls was against the society. According to novel, in Hindu culture female had to face various challenges after the death of their husband. This type of culture has been followed in some community of Hindu religion now a day too. But, the female from the world are in developed phase. Nepalese women are bounded in their religion to get their opportunity and to move freely like male as well as other female. This study was helpful to find out the gap between Nepalese Hindu female and other modern female in this novel. Therefore, I am interested to find out the issues related to female through the novel 'A Widow's Gift' and analyze them critically.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Any research is done to find out something and to fulfill the objectives.

Objectives are core of any research in my study the objectives are as:

- a. To analyze the novel 'A Widow's Gift' from a feminist perspective.

- b. To suggest some pedagogical implications.

1.4 Research Questions

Research questions are the guiding questions of the study. Generally objectives are converted into question form. Research questions guide the researcher to reach the finding of the study. In my study following are the research questions:

- a. What are the issues related to female depicted in the novel 'A Widows Gift'?
- b. What can be the implications of the study?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Teaching literature in the language classroom is essential for language and cultural enrichment and broadening the knowledge. This study should be significant for the language and literature teachers and literary critics to know the feminism aspects of novel. They would get some ideas about literary criticism through feminist perspective. This study should be an essential material for the literature teacher, language learner as well as for further researcher. So it should be beneficial for literary critics and text analyzers in the case of novel 'A Widows gift'.

1.6 Delimitations of the Study

The study was delimited in a number of ways. It was delimited to the analysis of novel 'A Widows Gift'. The study was delimited into the aspects of feminism. The study was delimited only in the issues related to female which are represented in the novel 'A Widow's Gift'.

1.7 Operational Definitions of Key Terms

Feminism: A social theory or political movement which argues that legal social and private life. But in this research feminism refers to the social theory and political movement which argues that legal and social restriction on women must be removed to establish equality of both sexes in all aspects of social and private life of Nepalese women.

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

Radical feminism: Feminist literary theory, which consists of patriarchy, oppression discrimination upon women in male dominated society.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This particular study consists of review of the theoretical literature, review of empirical literature, implication of the review for study and conceptual framework for the study.

2.1 Review of Related Theoretical Literature

We all know that any academic notion has theoretical ground, being based upon those grounds we made several discussion. The researcher cannot go further in the research process without theoretical knowledge and concept of the research topic. The theoretical concepts of this study have been presented as below:

2.1.1 Novel as a Literary Genre

Genre refers to the type or styles of literature. Literature can be divided into two forms are different in structure and subject matter. They can be further classified into different genres tentatively. They are poetry and prose. All types of poetry like sonnet, lyric, ballad, elegy, songs etc. fall under this category and stories, novel, drama and essays fall under prose. Buda (2013) states that genres are different in their nature of expression, Poem, in its purest form uses words to express by the speaker talking and thinking to himself/herself rather than to reader along with the quality of meditation. Essays are written in narrative styles which uses persuasive state of writer. Drama is play for the theater and the novel is regarded as a form of fiction which is based on imagination. My study is based on the novel. So here I am going to elaborate the concept of novel.

Novel is one of the genres of literature. It is the extended form of short story. It is long narrative in prose dealing with plot character and setting. Gautam (2011) states that novel refers to the relatively long fictional prose narrative with a complex plot or pattern of events about human beings, their feelings, their thoughts and action. Defining novel Abrams (2005 p. 197) says, "It is an extended work of fiction written in prose is regarded as the form of fiction, which is based on imagination or facts, it is a long narrative story dealing with characters, incidents and setting that imitates those found in real life. The novel deals with the event and action which constitutes its plot. It does not contain only plot character and dialogue but also scene and time of action. Thus plot, character, setting, point of view and theme are major elements of novel. The plot of novel might be tragic, comic, satiric or romantic. Abrams (2005 p. p. 197) states that the term novel is now applied to a great variety of writing that have in common only the attribute of being extended work of fiction written in a prose. As an extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from the short story and from the work of fiction written a prose. As an extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from the short story and from the work of middle length called novelette its magnitude permits a greater complications of plot (or plots) ampler developments of milieu and more sustained exploration of character and motives than do the shorter, more concerned modes.

The novel has become an increasingly popular form of fiction since the early eighteenth century through prose narratives were written long before then. The term denotes a prose narrative about characters and their actions in what is recognizably everyday life. This differentiates it from its immediate precedes or, the romance which describes unrealistic adventure of supernatural heroes.

According to the Abram (2005), the novel has developed based on the various sub branches of genres; for instance; Picaresque narrative, psychological novel, epistolary fiction, realistic novel, social novel and so on. He further states, picaresque narrative is emerged in sixteenth century Spain. Picaresque fiction is realistic in manner, episodic in structure (that is composed of a sequence of

events held together largely because they happened to one person). In similar vein, psychological novel is a sub branch of novel. Awasthi et al. (2011) state that psychological fiction dig out the mental states of the characters rather than the physical events in day to day life. Psychological novels are work of fiction that treat the internal life of the protagonist (or several or all characters) as much as (if not more than) the external forces that make up the plot. Epistolary fiction is a popular genre where the narrative is told via a series of documents. The word epistolary comes from Latin where 'epistle' which means a letters are most common basis for epistolary novels but diary entries are popular. (Abram, 2005). He further writes; Realistic novel is a fictional attempt to give the effect of realism. This sort of novel is called a novel of manner. Realistic can be characterized by its complex characters with mixed motives that are rooted in social class and operate according to highly developed social structure. The characters in realistic novel interact with other character and undergo plausible and everyday experiences.

The social novel emphasizes the influence of 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. The genre focused on possible development of societies, very often dominates have social/ political message. Historical novel 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 report of everyday events in contemporary newspapers. Some of the greatest historical novel also use the protagonist and action to reveal what the author regards as the deep forces that impel the historical process. Furthermore, Non-fictional novel uses varieties of novelist's techniques. Such as; deviations from the temporal sequence of events and descriptions of participants' states of mind to give a graphic rendering of recent people and happening (Abram, 2005).

2.1.2 Concept of Feminism in Literature

Literature and feminism are interrelated each other. Women can share their view through the medium of literature. Literary historian Cornillon (1973; p. 253) says;

‘There are connection between feminism and literature because literature has been one of the few vocations to women. They can express the states of their minds; their perceptions about the social attitudes of man towards women, their understanding of the way in which women learns to be women and their attitude.’

From this view I can say that the women can express their feeling, emotion of suppression and oppression through the medium of literature. Most of the literatures have been written in the sense of women and their role in society. They have been representing negatively in the literature rather than the positive way. Women have different culture and having different ideology to express their thoughts in literature. Different and their view have treated the women differently in negative way. Therefore women can express their view oppression, exploitation and pain through the medium of literature.

Traditionally, women's identity was related to men as a wife, mother, sister and daughter. The women have their own identity according to their role. As in essay gender trouble (1990) by Judith Butler, she advocate gender trouble as a way of challenging traditional notion of gender identity, the relation between gender and sex and introduces the notion of gender as performance or gender performativity and she also argues that the gender is something that one does. She includes that;

Gender is always doing, though not doing by subject which might be said to preexist the deed...there is no gender identity behind the expressions of

gender; that identity is performatively constituted by the very expressions that are said to be its results (p.25).

From the idea of Butler, individuals have got their identity by their performativity act. Women have got more identity rather than men. In contrast to the fixed gender in a person, gender should be seen not as the fixed attribute or idea but as a fluid variable which shifts and changes in different contexts and at different times. They have got the role in a negative way rather than the positive sense. Women have taken a secondary position to show their role.

Moreover, feminism is the most essential part of literature. It helps to analyze the expression of women in the perspective of female from male writers as well as from female writers. Women have got various roles in society due to conventional culture. They got the role but those roles create the exploitation and the exploitation compelled them to make a literature. Feminism helps to find out the issues related to females in literature.

2.1.3 Feminism and Feminist Theories

Feminist literary theory explains that women are often portrayed in stereotypical ways in literature. Showalter (1985) states;

‘In its earliest years, feminist criticism concentrated on exposing the misogyny of literary practice: the stereotyped images of women in the literature as angels or monsters, the literary abuse or textual harassment of women in classic and popular male literature, and the exclusion of women from literary history (p.5).

From this view, women have been treated or represented negatively in any literature. There are many literary works by males based on women discrimination or every literature has shown that females are not included

positively and they have been taking the role of angel or monsters. Even they are innocent all over the world.

According to Tyson (2006), socially, culturally, politically men and women are treated differently. Generally, women are discriminated in different sections of social systems and also mention that the view towards women is negative in literature which helps to bring out the reality of the society. Traditionally there was long gap between male and female. In this sense, Sharma(2017) writes in his research paper that ‘in patriarchal system, women are treated as emotional, inferior, less intelligent, smart in gossip, interested in minor things, less courageous, quick decision making.’ From reviewing this view, it is clear that the position of women is secondary in every section, the male people does not want to give the first position in social institution except the work through their intelligent.

In similar vein,Lamichhane (2014. P. 58) states, “Feminism helps to breakdown all the traditional concept of men and women, and also demands equality, equity and rights to women.” From this view, we all know that the feminism is a way to breakdown the traditional belief towards the female because the traditional society does not provide equal opportunity for female as same as male. Therefore, feminism provides empower to the women.

There are many feminist theories propounded by different feminist scholars and practiced for literary text analysis. For instance; American and French feminism, radical feminist theory, socialist feminism and Marxist feminist theory in brief. (Madsen, 2000)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 "cited in Sharma (2017). Thus American feminism focuses on the feminine history

and cultural aspects of society; French feminism focuses on the language, discourses used on the literary text while analyzing the literary text.

Radical feminist theory is a feminist theory which assumes that women from the sex class. The condition of women is not just as class but as oppressed class. Madsen(2000) says; radical feminism analyzes the relationship between social inequality and sexual differences”. It means while analyzing the literary text from radical feminist perspectives, social inequality among men and women or sexual discrimination should be analyzed. Radical feminism theory recognizes the role of gender and patriarchy wherein women are categorized as inferior class and the suppressed in different circumstances.

Socialist feminist 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, violence upon women, working conditions of women, reproduction and sexuality, all aspects should be considered for analyzing literary text.

Marxist feminist theory situates gender relations as a reflection of economic class relations within the structure family unit; the man is the bourgeois as the women as the proletariat. Eco-feminism analyzes the relationship between the patriarchal oppression of women and human domination within the culture; racism, sexism, class oppression and exploitation of nature.

2.1.4 Marxist and Socialist Feminism

Marxist feminist theory is the sub branch of feminist literary theory which works under the social structure and helps to analyze the literary text through Marxist feminist perspective. Mackinnon (1982) includes, ‘This branch of feminism emerged due to a dissatisfaction with the lack of gender analysis in classic Marxist theory which was deemed ‘sex blind’. This view shows that Marxist feminism was established due to the imbalance of gender description in classic way.

Mackinnon (1982) states;

The discovery shows that the female archetype is the feminine stereotype exposed 'women' as a social construction. Contemporary industrial society's view of her is docile, soft, passive, nurturing, vulnerable, weak, narcissistic, childlike, incompetent, masochistic and domestic made for childcare, homecare and husband care.

Aforementioned view shows that women have been playing the secondary role home to society. They are stereotyped as docile or it means the women are taken as obedient of male and they have to do whatever male told. They are soft, passive and weak due to their physical status rather than male. Females are the source of violence due to their physical structure because most of the female have been facing the problem of wrap case. They are also taken as the domestic made for childcare, homecare and husband care as well as go to outside for job. If a women work for her family in the home, she has to be supported, and so she is economically dependent on the men of house like children. If she works outside the home, she is still expected to fulfill the domestic duties and so she ends up working twice as hard as man and usually for a lots less pay. Therefore, women have been taken as the discriminated class rather than male from home to society.

Similarly, Ghorfati&Medini (2015) write in the research paper that the socialist feminist rejects the idea that liberation for women requires the abolition of childbirth, and they seek to analyze the subordination of women as linked with other form of oppression or attempt to unite the fight for socialism with that for women liberation. It means, society creates various forms of oppression but women want to get liberation with fighting any form of oppression and barriers from society.

Under the social structure, Marxist feminism believes that the women liberation should be maintain according to the demand of working class women. Providing equal salary for both male and female is the main aim of Marxist and socialist feminism. Marxist feminism has established to abolish gender inequality which has been existed in the society, the inequality or exploitation not only by male as well as from female.

2.1.5 Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism is a particular approach for achieving equality between men and women. It focuses on a power of an individual person to the discriminatory work against women. This is a kind of feminism which works within the structure of society to integrate women to it. Thus, liberal includes the social structure and equality for women. Different societies have different to create an inequality. It depends upon the structure of society or the culture of the particular society (Ghorfati&Medini, 2015).

Similarly, Ghorfati&Medini(2015) includes that the major emphasis of liberal feminism is equality of women before law, in educational and professional opportunities, change in marriage laws, property rights, equal pay for equal work, protection from rape, wife battering in the home and liberation from all dehumanizing forces. This view represents that the main thrust of liberal feminism is that the individual women should be able to determine her social role with as freedom as does a men. The women have equal rights to utilize opportunity from family, society, private and public institutions as well as from the states as same as men. And women should get securityfrom any kinds of violence by men. Women have been facing discriminative behavior in the society. They have been killing due to various violence like rape case, girl trafficking and so on. And also women have low security in job to stay late evening.

The main contribution of liberal feminism is showing how much modern society discriminates against women. It helps to provide equal career

opportunity for women as same as men. Therefore, liberal feminism focuses on the power of an individual person which help to abolish the discriminatory practice against women and provide equal justice to women as same as men. Therefore, liberal feminism is a way to give liberation for women by abolishing inequality those which created in every sector of society.

2.1.6 Radical Feminism

It is a perspective of feminism that focuses on the hypothesis of patriarchy as a system of power that organized society into a complex of relationships based on the male supremacy oppresses women. Radical feminism aims to challenge the patriarchy by opposing standard gender roles and oppression of women and it helps to bring a radical reordering of society. According to radical feminism, main form of women domination is boundaries of race, culture and economic class (Ghorfati&Medini, 2015).

Radical feminism's theoretical watchword is patriarchy, or men's pervasive oppression and exploitation of women, which can be found wherever women and men are in contact with each other, in private as well as public. Radical feminist theorists have believed that women's oppression is most important and most basic discrimination in most society. They see women's oppression as a model and multiplier for other kind of oppression (Cooper, 1995).

Similarly, Jagger 1993 states as cited in (Cooper, 1995);

‘Radical feminism argues that gender is not only the way in which women are differentiated socially from men: they see it also as the way in which women are subordinated to men. The gender is not ‘different but equal’. Instead gender is an elaborate system of male domination. The theoretical task of radical feminism is to understand that system: its political task is to end it.’

For reviewing this view, radical feminism is a way which it helps to abolish gender inequality which is emerging through the society and its system. First it knows the system of male domination and then it helps to end it in practical way. Therefore, radical feminism is a way to investigate the oppression of women under the role of patriarchy and its power.

Likewise, Vukoicic,2013 writes, ‘Radical feminism is based on the view that patriarchal society is generally unjust system in which women are categories of people exposed to various types of discrimination and exploitation, is universal in the world.’ This view assumes that women have been suffering from patriarchal system which is found all over the world in every culture. Women have been compelled to accept various types of discrimination and exploitation due to the power of patriarchal culture.

2.1.7 Power, Patriarchy and Oppression as the Concept of Radical Feminism

Radical feminism is one of the directions of feminist theory on which that the social system is based on patriarchal bias, resulting the marginalization and discrimination against in all domains of society.It means all the systems of society include women discrimination and there is the impact of patriarchy which has been existed throughout the history and power of patriarchy over the women(Vukoicic, 2013). About the power of patriarchy, Marlin French states as cited in Vukoicic(2013); ‘The concept of power which is located in the center of radical feminist analysis which is defined as the essence of patriarchy and the central concept of abstract enemies that feminism has to face.’ This view assumes that power is most important thing in radical feminist analysis; patriarchy is also the most essential concept to be a radical feminism. Power of men dominated society or patriarchy impacts the domination over the women.

Vukoicic(2013) further states that ‘the process of domination over women is spreading to many men ; desire for domination , therefore exists effect of patriarchy to men , as a women's liberation of systematic oppression makes a

fundamental prerequisite to free all people from universally destructive social model.' From this view we can say that the process domination toward women is spreading all over the world. Patriarchy and its impact hinder the liberation of women because they have been dominated by male as well as female due to the control of patriarchy. Male and female both are limited to change the destructive social model. Female and male both are confuse to change patriarchal rule of society. Women have been dominated not only from the men but also from the women due to the conventional belief and role of patriarchy.

Likewise, women are any form of oppression, in this context Spelman(1988)writes;

..Nowoman is subject to any form of oppression:simply because she is women who form of oppression she is subject to depend on what kinds of womenshe is. In a world which women might be subject to racism, classism, homophobia anti-Semitism, if she is no subject it is because of her race, class religion, sexual orientation. So it can never be the cause that the treatment of a woman has only to do with her gender and nothing to do with her class or race.

From reviewing this view, women are the source of oppression according to their race, class,caste, religion and their sexual representation. If she appears within her religion, she will be the cause of oppression; for instance, in Hindu religion women are in different form of oppression.Such as; widowhood, dowry system, untouchability, chhaupadhi system during menstruation time and so on. There is discrimination according to class because higher class women dominate the lower class women due to the power. Women have been discriminating due to their sexual orientation, they are discriminated according to physical body, are not secreted from any criminal activities like girl trafficking and rape case. And women have been facing various typeof

oppression according to their race as well. Therefore, women are the subject of various form of oppression.

Moreover, radical feminism is the way for identifying the form of women discrimination and its practical way is to abolish the oppression towards women. Power, patriarchy and oppression are the main concepts of radical feminism. Power is the main source to guide patriarchy. Women have been facing various forms of oppression due to class, caste, race, religion, sexual representation and so on

2.1.8 Feminist Literatures and Its Features

Feminist literature is a literary work of either written by male writers or female writers which carries features of feminism like women rights, gender equality, women freedom suppression and oppression upon women in society, different forms of oppression upon women and so on. Feminist literature expresses all types of oppression, discrimination, violence and ideologies about the women. Sharma (2017) includes some features of feminist literature; Feminist literature carries principles, theories of feminism and it refers to any literary work which Centre on the struggle of women for freedom, equality, women rights and so on. Another feature of feminist literature is, feminist literature may be either as fictional (reality), similarly, Protagonists in the literary genre are always in feminist nature and always in favor of female. They are revolutionary in nature and go against traditional conventions gender discrimination and oppression upon women. He writes that female literature always moves in female sphere.

Another feature of feminist literature is, all events, actions and stories in literature are in favor of women. In similar way, Feminist literature portrays out the dominations discriminations, oppressions, inequalities and bias ness upon women. From the above mentioned features of feminist literature, I noticed that the feminist literature expresses the social political and cultural discrimination and inequalities upon women. Traditional cultural belief, role of patriarchy, oppression due to the class, caste and economic status are also the main source

to make feminist literature. In literature women are dominated by various reason.

2.1.9 Representation of Gender in Literature

Gender is associated with the role of men and women given by our society. Feminist and gender theorist raising their voice to an end discrimination against women. Haleem, (2014) includes in her article that the portrayal of male character as a brave courageous, bold, reserve, confident and rational being whereas of a female character as a weak, expressive, shy, submissive, emotional and irrational being; sets mind for gender discrimination and division of human characteristic into two separate categories. It is to say female have been taken as secondary position and they can be taken as a weaker shy, emotional and so on. Female are differentiate as in weak position or they are treated as other than the male one. They have been treated in secondary position in theoretical way as well as in practical way in every culture.

According to Poynton (1990, p. 1); ‘contemporary literature has focused much attention on the issues of socialization into gender roles and sexist discourse.’ This means that gender inequality are available in every literature which regards from particular society. Female have been represented negatively in society which can be expresses through the medium of literature. Holmes (2008, p. 318) says;

At first sight it may seem odd to suggest that a language rather than its speaker are sexists. Sexism involves behavior which maintains social inequalities between men and women ... there are number of ways in which it has been suggested that the English language discriminates against women most obviously perhaps semantic areas.

This idea assumes that gender issues are available each and every literature. Female have been treated negatively in literature. Different languages are used

in literature to show women discrimination. Gender inequality is also one part of feminism. Therefore, literature and gender are interrelated each other. Most of the literatures have shown gender inequality.

2.2 Review Related Empirical Literature

In this section, review related empirical literature consists of previous studies related to feminism and gender issues. The previous studies related my studies are given below:

Bhatta(2013) carried out research entitled “The feminist perspective in the novel ‘The Bell Jar’”. The purpose of the study was to find out the aspects of feminism from the novel. The research was qualitative based on the secondary sources of data. The objectives of the research were to identify the aspects of feminism in ‘The bell Jar’ and to provide some pedagogical implications. The data were collected through observation (reading and re- reading). The major findings of that study were females are dominated by males even in developed country, females are dominated by females as well, and the females are treated as secondary role in societies. They are dominated sexually, politically, economically and so on.

Buda (2013) carried out the research on “Gender issues in Raisin in the sun: A Critical Discourse Analysis”. The objective of the study was an attempt to critically analyze the discourses of the drama Raisin in the sun to document the gender inequalities and discrimination. To fulfill the objectives of her study, she had collected 40 discourses using non-random sampling procedure. The tools for data collection were observation and checklist. These selected discourses critically analyzed separately under various parameters. The study showed the existence of gender discrimination in the discourses, for example; the use of ‘generic’ he and men diminishes the visible role of female in the language which is found to be responsible for creating discrimination and inequalities. Similarly, family names and titles, marked women and unmarked men, gender roles and responsibilities status, profession and even the

paralinguistics mode of communication favored man and showed the existence of gender discrimination in the discourses.

Haleem (2014), carried out the research entitled 'Challenging Gender Stereotype: A text analysis of Quisrashesraz's Novel the Holy women. The aim of research was challenging the gender stereotypes and highlighting the emancipation of women in the backdrop of the views presented by the feminists and the gender theories. The text of Quisrashahra's Novel, The Holy women is analyzed in milieu of feminist and gender theories. The findings of the research was, there is gender stereotyping and gender biasedness in this novel as practiced by the male and female characters of the novels but these gender stereotypes are challenged thus resulting in the changed gender roles and the emancipated women characters.

Khatri (2016) carried out the research on 'Feminist voice in the poetry; A case of poem from new paradigm. The main objectives of the study were to find out the women's voices for equality and empowerment and find out how culture determines the role of male and female in the society. To fulfill the objectives of the study, he had collected the data from poems; I am becoming my mother, An Introduction, The Fisherman mourned by his wife, Letter from Mama Dot and Phenomenal women. He had used observation and intensive reading of poems and used diary to take a note and data were analyzed and interpreted descriptively. The major findings of the study were women's poor life style, domestic violence, torture and harassment, women raises the voice for equality, freedom and empowerment and women event to change traditional thought to become an independent person.

Sharma(2017) carried out the research entitled 'Feminist perspective in the translated autobiographical essay JeevankandaKiphool' tried to identify aspects from a Anthony of autobiographical essay 'A flower in the midst of the thorns' in terms of cultural, social and religious aspects, gender aspects, domination upon women, women rights, women's place in society and role of

patriarchy. The data were collected through the Anthony of autobiographical essay which was written by Jhamak Ghimire. Forty eight female issues related sentences and extracts were collected as data through purposive sampling under non probability sampling strategy. Secondary data were analyzed under survey design based on qualitative approach. The major findings of the study were; females have been dominated higher educated, civilized and respected people due to the patriarchy system, females have been taken as fine objects of entertainment in Nepalese societies and females have been discriminated everywhere home to social institution.

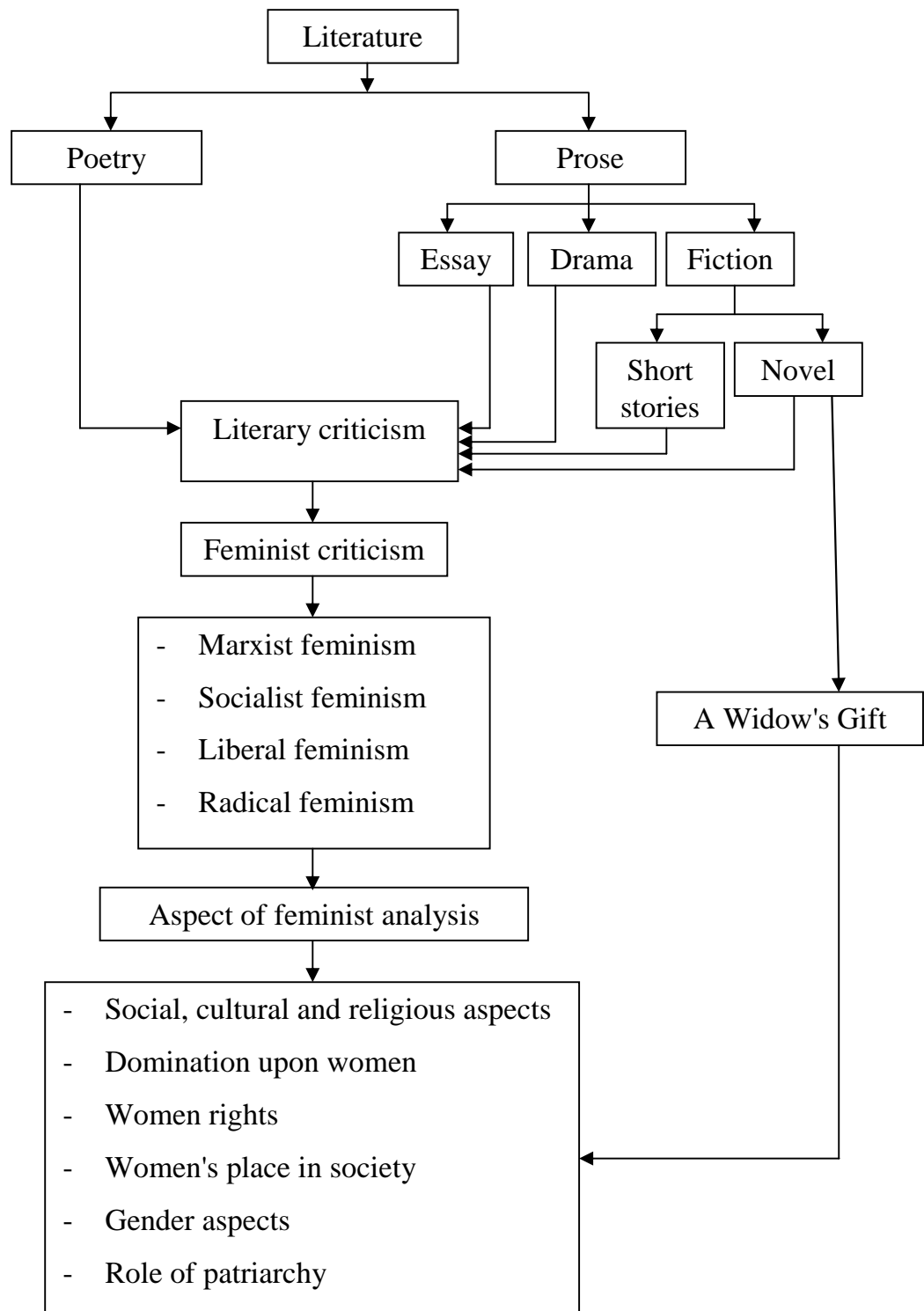
2.3 Implication of Review for the Study

Each and everything has its own significance. Above reviewed literature (theoretical and empirical) is similar and helpful to my study. The review of above mentioned literature directly and indirectly has a great support for my study regarding to have the concept of literary criticism specially the concept of feminist criticism. The review of the study has been taken information from varieties of books, theses, articles, Internet and so on. Literature review supported to have theoretical background, broadened knowledge base, helped in objectifying and improving methodology. The review become essential to examine and evaluate what has been said before on the topic and what has been said yet, for finding new area for further research.

Tyson (2005), Cooper (1995), Daly (1997, 1998) provide me lot of ideas and information about theoretical knowledge of literary criticism which are more supportive for my study. Madsen (2000), Abram (2005), Ghorfati & Medini (2015) were helpful to get ideas about feminism and feminist theories of literature. Sharma (2017) has a great support to get the idea of methodology. Idea of other scholars like Khatri (2016), Bhatta (2013) also helpful to take idea for my study.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework refers the mental picture of the things in consideration when we think of something images is created in our mind, that is known as conceptual framework, in my study which includes:



Based on the aforementioned conceptual framework, my study was related to the feminist literary criticism and literary genre like poetry and prose. Prose can be divided into essay, drama and fiction. Short stories and novels come under the fiction. All the literary area can be viewed through literary criticism like feminist literary criticism. Feminism is a wider theory on which different theories are emerged as a sub branch of feminism. For instance; liberal feminism, socialist feminism, Marxist feminism and radical feminism. Among various novels 'A Widow's Gift' was selected for my study by using radical feminism theories and its aspects. Such as; domination or oppression upon women, role of patriarchal society, position of women in society, cultural and religious aspects, gender aspects and women rights.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

Methodology refers to the methods or procedures adopted to achieve the objectives of the study. To achieve objective of my study, following methodologies were selected.

3.1 Design and Method of the Study

A research design is essential for each research journey. This research is a form of qualitative research because it is related to documentary research. I conducted this research in qualitative and descriptive way. According to Best & Khan (1993, p. 204) “qualitative research focuses on in depth interview, observation and document analysis.” This view shows that qualitative research includes in-depth interview, observation and document analysis. My research had been conducted on the basis of document analysis which was analysis of novel ‘A Widow’s Gift’.

Similarly, Scott(2006) mentions, “Documentary research involves the use of text and document as source materials: government publications, newspapers, certificates, census publications, novels, film and video, paintings, personal photograph, diaries and innumerable other written ,visual , pictorial sources in paper, electronic or other ‘hardcopy’ form.” For assuming this view, it is clear that documentary research is the study of documents that are already prepared by others than the researcher those which are prepared for information.

Documents are both primary and secondary. In this regard Cohen et. al (2007) state, primary documents are produced as a direct record of an event or process by a witness or subject involve in it. Secondary documents are formed through an analysis of primary to provide an act of event.” It is to say that if the researcher wants to study the primary document, s/he has to involve directly related document. If s/he is interested to analyze secondary document s/he has

to select the documents prepared by others. Therefore, my study is based on the secondary document because it is novel written by other.

3.2 Population, Sample and Sampling Strategy

My research is related to document analysis by adopting qualitative approach. As sampling strategies purposive sampling strategy had been used under non-random or non-probability sampling strategy. The selected novel was read and re-read and 24 sentence or extracts had been selected which are related to female issues and cultural issues to complete objectives of my study.

3.3 Research Tools and Technique

Observation has been used as a technique to collect the required data. For this particular study I used aspects of feminism and collections of sentence from a novel 'A Widows Gift'.

3.4 Sources of Data

This particular study was fully based on the secondary source of data, for instance; review of researches study, books and articles were the secondary sources of data. Specially, secondary sources of data collection was a novel 'A widows Gift' and sources for literature review were; Tyson (2006), Sharma (2017), Daly(1997,1998), Madsen(2000), Spivak(2008),research articles, journals, thesis and books are used for empirical and theoretical review.

3.5 Data Collection Procedure

Mainly, observation and in depth study had been used to collect the data from the document 'A Widow's Gift'. First of all I read and re-read the novel. Then I collected the sentences and extracts related to female related issues from novel by using the criteria of feminism.

3.6 Data Analysis Procedure

The collected data were analyzed, interpreted descriptively with the help of the aspect offeminism. Different procedures had been applied to analyze the collected data; first of all, data were categorized into five groups, such as; in terms of social cultural and religious aspects, domination upon women, women's right, women's place or position in society, gender aspect and role of patriarchy. The data had been linked with the aspects of feminism by the help of different feminist theories and criticism. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted descriptively.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

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

- i. Sources and quotations were acknowledged by citing and paraphrasing with authors' name and published date of book to avoid plagiarism.
- ii. The data had been reported honestly.
- iii. A potentiality of author was respected from whose books the data was taken.
- iv. Unbiased language was used when analyzing data.

CHAPTERFOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.1 Analysis of Data and Interpretation of Results

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

4.1.1 Religious, Cultural and Social Aspects

Culture is the main source of women's oppression. Luce Irigaray suggests as cited in Tyson (2006; p.101); "patriarchal culture much of women's subjugation occurs in the form of psychological repression enacted through the medium of language." For assuming this idea I noticed that culture is the main source to give psychological oppression for women by using various repressive words. Therefore, culture is the main source to dominate women. The selected novel has also represented the cultural issues. Here, some extracts were selected those which were related to religious, cultural and social aspects from novel 'A Widow's Gift'. Analysis of selected extracts had been given in the following way:

- a) Kancha scratched his head, bent forward and replied with an innocent smile that he was the father of two daughters. His parents lamented their birth so much that he had had to leave so that he would not be force to marry another women in order to have sons for he loved his wife very much.(p.4)

The author of selected novel has presented aforementioned extract which was in the context of Nepalese society those which represents the female biasness in the society. Female have been discriminated from the family as well as from society due to conventional superstition. Family and society have the concept that the birth of girl is not enough for future. Women have been compelled to

be discriminated by the family. And husband of that women have been forced to remarry to have the son. Therefore, this extract shows that women are the tools for violence and some women have been compelled to leave the home, some are killed when they are unable to give the birth to son.

Women have been discriminated due to the traditional role of society. Society oppresses women due to laws and customs of particular society, which rule includes marriage is something to be motherhood where female have been oppressed. Tyson (2006, p.96) includes in her theory; “The patriarchal traditions and institutions that control the material(physical) and economic conditions by which society oppresses women, for example, patriarchal belief about the difference between men and women and the laws and customs that govern marriage and motherhood.” The following extract is suitable with this theory:

- b) Radha’s grandmother burst into laughter at her grandmother’s innocence and told her that she should never play at her in-law’s place. She should always cover her head with sari and help her mother-in-law and sister-in- law with their work inside and out.(pp.16-17).

Above mentioned extract shows that women have been bounding to show their freedom after getting married. This view refers to the women’s oppression due to the Hindu religion. When female got married, they were compelled to cover their head with sari and they had not much freedom to do everything and always play the role of servant. In this regard, Mishra (2015) includes in her research paper that in the name of religion, custom and tradition women are marginalized, subjugated and restricted from the other roles beside a home maker or a mother. Therefore, Nepalese women have been bounded due to specific value or cultural system, which can be shown through above mentioned extracts as well as from this theory.

- c) He and his father walked straight into his room, where a host of weeping women stood surrounding his wife and poor Radha, who was

silently observing the lamenting cries of the women. Radha was not at all moved. She had had no feelings at the death of her husband and had yet to understand the significance of such death in Hindu society where the greatest misfortune that can befall a wife is to survive her husband (p.43).

Here, author represents the idea that innocent character Radha has going to face the problem due to the traditional superstition of Hindu society. She has no idea about the death of her husband because of her early marriage. But due to the Hindu culture Radha had got various type of oppression or she had compelled to serve her husband by following traditional system of Hindu culture. More crying creates the weakness for women. But women have been involved such types of activities. For this view, Tyson (2006, p. 87) includes;

“Patriarchal gender roles are destructive for men as well as for women. Because traditional gender roles dictate that men are supposed to be strong (physically powerful and emotionally stoic), they are not supposed to cry because crying is considered as a sign of weakness, a sign that one has been over powered by one’s emotions.”

Abovementioned theory and extract shows that women have been taken as the weaker and emotional position rather than the male people.

- d) Suddenly they heard the excited voice of Radha. Mother! Father! I’m back! Oh I feel as free as bird! (p.49).

This is the extract related to the women’s oppression due to the social boundary. When Radha get married, she will not be free in her law’s house. She has to serve in the family. She had not the time to do whatever she like. When she returned back with her parents she felt like bird. In this regard Tyson (2006) generates her view that marriage to the right men is a guarantee of happiness and proper reward for a right minded young women. Here, I got the idea that women have not freedom after getting marriage due to the rule of

traditional family as well from society. Thus, it is also the form of women's suppression.

- e) "It is nice to hear you praise your granddaughter-in-law, Bhauju, but be careful not to break with the tradition. She should follow all the customs prescribe in the religious book to be followed by widows; otherwise your son will have no peace."(p.63)

Above mentioned sentence is used by the neighbor of Radha's in-law. It is the form of female discrimination due to the conventional view of society. Family wants to encourage Radha but society have negative attitude towards education of female, especially for Radha because of her widowhood. Neighbors have suggested her not to break the tradition. This extracts has also carries female issue or discrimination of female due to the superstition is existed in society.

- f) You are of low cast. How dare you stop us! You should learn to respect us and do what we ask you to do. Get out of your way? (p.147)

The author represents that the women discrimination includes in terms of cast as well. Above mentioned extract is used by the character Radha's aunt and for the Dhana(partner of Radha). Dhana belongs to lower caste. So theRadha'saunt scolded her badly. Here, I noticed that women have been discriminated according to the existing traditional rule of society. Caste system is the form of women's oppression which is existed everywhere in the world.

- g) Banu rushed upstairs to her room and found her almost unconscious. He wanted to touch her but caught himself just in time, for he was not supposed to touch a widowed sister-in-law. (p.116)

Aforementioned extracts shows that 'Banu' is the brother-in-law of Radha. Recently he founds to Radha in unconscious stage in her room, but he did not want to go to touch her because of her widowhood. Women have been discriminated as the name of widow in Hindu culture. When such type of women have reached in critical condition due to the physical sickness then the

male are not allowed to care them, because their culture have restricted them to touch the widow women. Thus, this extract shows the women discrimination due to cultural belief.

4.1.2 Gender Aspects

Gender is one of the factors that differentiates male and female is also taken as the aspect of feminism. Here, Following extracts were selected under this aspect from a selected novel 'A Widow's Gift'.

- a) There is a great difference in Hindu society, however, when a girl instead of boy is born. Whereas a boy is regarded as an asset to his parents, who expect him to look after them in their old age and to perform ritual on their death in order to clear the pathway for them to heaven, a girl is always regarded as burden.(p.1)

'Gender' is a cultural construct it was known to all but discrimination in Nepal begins at birth. It is happening not only in Nepal but also in many cultures throughout the globe the fact rest of longing for a male child and gender infanticide has been common practice. In this sense, Rich includes in his essay (as cited in Mishra,2015); "If as well may happen, you give a birth to a child, if it is a boy it live: if it is a girl, expose it." It is clear that female child is less important, whereas male child is most essential in the world.The author mentions gender discrimination in Hindu society. Birth of boy is everything rather than girl one. Boys only allowed to be participated in funeral procession of their parents. From this extract I knew that female have been discriminating birth to death as a burden. Family and society does not want to accept the birth of girl easily.

- b) Radha came into request them to come for dinner. The Panditand his sons were served first.(p.64)

Here in this novel, the author expresses the thoughts that gender discrimination has been existed in Hindu society. Male have to eat first when a meal time only

then the turn comes for female. Therefore female have been treated as the secondary person like a servant of male. In this sense Madsen (2000,p.2) states; 'women should be confined to the domestic sphere nurturing children, maintaining the household and serving their husband.' Here I got the idea that female have been treated as a servant and treated as a secondary.

- c) "Bhauju, don't worry. I will send some money to you every month for your minor expenses. You have more rice than you need. Our cousins will surely look after you in our absence."

Given extract has produced by brother-in-law of main character Radha and he told her. This view shows that there is gender suppression in male dominated society where female can be taken as the dependent class. They have been depended in the income of male and ask for support to live alone in home or society because they are taken in weaker position.

- d) On her way back home, Radha met Jamuna's husband Jagannath. Though he was taken aback to see Radha alone in the street in the evening , he admired her spirit and offered to escort her home.(p.89)

According to the author, Radha has been oppressed as a widow. Walking alone in the evening was not allowed for women in society. It is conventional view that to stay outside till late evening is not allowed for female or it is sin for society. Therefore, it is to say that there is gender inequality in the society. Male people can move freely in the society but view of society towards female is narrower.

4.1.3 Oppression upon women

Oppression upon women is one of the aspects of feminism where women have been suppressed or dominated. There are 5 extracts were selected and analyzed within this aspect which can be given on the following way:

- a) One of her friends grumbled as seeing a new bride alone with her grandfather-in-law. “Shame! Shame! How does she dare to be with panditji without your permission Bajai? (p.30)

Abovementioned extract shows that women have been discriminated from male dominated society. Here, Radha has suppressed from the society those which take the women as oppressed class. It means women have been in suppression due to the traditional society those which believe that the new bride is not allowed to sit nearby the male person. Therefore, this extract shows women discrimination by society.

- b) Poor Radha! She did not know that she would be in mourning till in her own death she would not be permitted to wear ornaments or colored attire, take part in any amusements or attend family festivities such as annaprasan, upanayan and married parties, for her very presence would be considered as an evil omen. (p.46)

The author has represented that Radha is taken as a weak position by the male dominated society with the use of word ‘poor’. She was in suppression that she had to be to be discriminated till her death. She was bound to be participated any auspicious occasion and not allowed to dress whatever she like or whatever were by other married women. Thus, it is a form of women discrimination by the male dominated society and cultural belief towards female. When the women feel pain after the death of her husband and then society or culture adds another pain for female. However, women have to survive her dead husband till her death but male can remarry another female after the death of his wife. It is a gender inequality or oppression of women due to the cultural belief of Hindu society.

- c) Their aunt had asked her husband to take Radha to Bhaktapur as soon as possible, thinking that keeping a widow at home was asking for trouble. Radha went without complaints. (p57)

When Radha was at her birthplace Kathmandu with her uncle and aunt, she faced various critics to live as a widow. She was discriminated to stay with her uncle and aunt because she was taken as a burden. Society had negative view towards her widowhood. Therefore, this extract shows that women have been operated from family as well as from society, is not only by male but also from female due to the remaining cultural belief in society. For this extract Madsen(2000) writes that the females are portrayed in literature because the purpose is to show how women are placed culturally(not naturally) within a scheme of male values. From this view and given extract show those females have been compelled to accept the cultural values which have been prescribed by male dominated society.

- d) Had her parents and grandparents not vanished during the violent earthquake, she would not have returned until she had had her first period. Radha's uncle and aunt had broken with custom by not keeping her until that time, since they felt the girl widow to be a great burden.(p.58)

Given extract shows that women discrimination have been prevailing throughout the conventional culture and its impact is remaining now too in Hindu community. The women have been discriminated during the mensuration period. During the first period of mensuration, the girl was not allowed to stay with her parent's home. Here, this extract shows that Radha also discriminated by her family. Therefore, this extract is selected as the aspect of feminism.

- e) "I just not understand my mother. She always orders me to work only for the family, not for others. She does not approve my coming hereto help you, as if widowhood is contagious disease women against women.(p.75)

Abovementioned view or extract shows that the women have been discriminated in their different name they have been getting different identity

to be oppressed. They are the form of oppression as the name of widow; it is not only from male but also from female. Madsen (2000, p. 10) writes; “Gender identity is assumed to be determinant of women’s lives and therefore their writing-society shapes their language, consciousness, education and careers through powerful social historical conditioning(socializations)”. Therefore, women have been discriminated by getting identity from society.

- f) She was utterly surprised and irritated and burst out. “It seems you have forgotten that you are a widow. Why else they suspect you of having a love affair with master Shiva? The leaf does not flatter without wind. I could not lift my hand while listening to my aunt. Shame on you!” (p.109)

In selected extract, the writer expresses that women have been discriminated from the family as well as from society. This extract shows that character Radha was suppressed by her sister-in-law and her negative behavior towards Radha. When, Radha started to move ahead by changing the rule of society and providing the education for girls. Traditional society was against Radha so her sister-in-law was following such type of belief to critic her. From this extract, I noticed that women have been discriminated or suppressed in the family as well as by the society. When one female wants to bring evolution, she should face various challenges from the male as well as from the female. They create hopeless instead of providing encouragement.

It is clear that single women has various challenges to spend her life, especially widow women have been faced such types of challenges. Her relation has been added with male people of family. In this sense Beauvoir observes as cited in Tyson (2006, p. 96); “In patriarchal society, men are considered essential subjects (independent selves with free will), when women are considered contingent beings (dependent beings controlled by circumstances). Men can act upon the world, change it, give it meaning, while women have meaning only in

relation to men.” Therefore above mentioned extract was related to this theory because there was oppression upon women due to the loss of husband.

- g) “Why should I help her? I suspect that master Shiva has made her pregnant. Oh, what disgrace to our Brahmin community!”(p.116)

Above mentioned extract shows that sister-in-law pour anger with Radha. Radha was in critical condition due to physical sickness. She was in the need of support but she got negative attitude by her family instead of getting love and care. The family and society was against her. So, society and her family were critical about the collaboration of Radha and master Shiva because of their work for girl education and creating evolution in the society. Women discrimination or exploitation can be created due to the evolutionary work for female but not for herself.

4.1.4 Women’s Right

Women right is also aspect of feminism where women’s freedom can be represented. In the society female has been restricted to get their rights and to show freedom due to the patriarchal culture. Mishra (2015) includes; “the claw of patriarchy are so gigantic and tough that women are unable to realize their basic fundamental rights.” It is real that women have been compelled to dominate due to their particular culture. Following sentences or extracts were selected under this aspect and analysis of these extract has been given on the following way:

- a) The mother and grandmother had by then drawn themselves like a turtle into the shell of their kitchen, since women were not supposed to participate in such matters.(p.2)

Here in this sentence, the author represents that women have been oppressed in male dominated society, where the role of women was not addressed or they are taken as the ruled class. The mother and grandmother of Radha were limited in kitchen or four wall of house. They were not participated an

important decision for themselves, even they were not involved in the decision of their daughter and granddaughter. From the review of aforementioned extract or sentence, it is to say that women had not right to decide for themselves.

- b) A gloomy couple was waiting to hear him pass judgment on their future. They already had eight daughters and were still hoping for a son.(p.10)

Given extract shows that women have been discriminated from birth to till her death. The writer expresses that the women had compelled to give the birth of many girl children for hoping son. But their own physical status is running in critical stage by reproducing more children. So, women have suppressed as child rearing instead of showing freedom. In this regard Madsen (2000,p.8) includes; ‘the reproductive capacity of women and emphasis upon connectivity and nurturing in feminine gender developments lends women a greater understanding of nature but also leaved feminized nature vulnerable to the exploitive power of men under patriarchy.’ The view of this theory and aforementioned extract show that women have been suppressed by male dominated society and power of patriarchy.

- c) Akash suggested, “bhauju, you should open a hotel!” Radha smiled. “Babu what are you talking about opening a hotel? Me, widow? Impossible! Even if I want to; our community would surely laugh at me and talk all kinds of nonsense to disgrace your family.” (p.69)

The writer mentions in this novel that the women are unable to do everything whatever they think. Here, Radha had afraid from society to do something because of her widowhood. From this extract I realized that women want to do something but community hinders instead of encourage. Women should have freedom to be independent, but it is impossible due to t the influence of male dominated society, where male are in superior class. For this extract Tyson (2006, p.86) propounded the belief that,

“Men are superior to women has been used, feminist have observed to justify and maintain the male monopoly of position of economics, political and social power, in other words to keep women powerless by denying them the educational and occupational means of acquiring economic political and social power. That is the inferior position long occupied by women in patriarchal society has been culturally, not biologically produced.”

This theory is related to abovementioned extract because women have been taken as dependent and inferior to men in patriarchy.

- d) She always regretted that families, society and nation did not pay proper education for girls. (p.77)

Here, given sentence showed that Radha had faced various problems in society. She wanted to change the role of society by providing girl's education. But society had not awareness to provide such education because of the superstition and cultural belief given by culture, where education was only allowed for boys. . This sentence shows thatthere is a gender imbalance due to the role of patriarchy those which raise the question against the right of female.

- e) Ganga was flattered to chair the session ‘How nice to arrange a get together after such a long time! We have so many things to share. Our society has been moving in wrong ways. Who is going to do something if we don't? Just see how master Shiva and Radha are breaking tradition by sending Gita and Sita to a boy's school instead of arranging marriagesfor them. Shame! Shame! (pp. 80-81)

Author expresses various issues related to the feminism. Among them I selected this extract as the female issue, because this extract includes that character Gita and Sitawere sent boys school with the support of Radha, but the society started to challenge the Radha and master Shiva. There was the challenge by the group of female in conventional society .it means that society was against female rights to get education. There was the view that the birth of

girl is only for marry. Thus, the extract clarifies that women have been discriminated from society to get their rights.

- f) They are really lucky to have you as their landlady, look at me. I'm not allowed even to go to the girls' school. Can't you tell my mother to at least engage a private tutor for me? (p. 88)

Here, in this extract one girl requested Radha to convince her mother because of her interest to go to take education. But, her family was against Radha. It can be shown that female had to face various challenges to take their rights in that society.

4.1.5 Role of Patriarchy and power

Patriarchy refers to the system of social construction in which male's role is primary dominant everywhere and every matter where as women's role as secondary and inferior. Patriarchy plays a great role in feminism so it can be taken as the aspects of radical feminism. Four sentences or extract has been selected for analysis. This can be given on the following way:

- a) Though Radha always hated to cover her head, she did as soon as she saw her in laws, and went to bow down to them without acknowledging their humor. She was very tired and hungry, but she was not supposed to ask for food and had to wait till her in laws had eaten. (p.36)

In this extract the author represents that Radha has been discriminated as an obedient female. She had to cover her head and bow down her in laws everyday but it was out of her interest. It means women have been discriminated from family and society which was under the control of patriarchal culture. Women have been suppressed as the inferior, obedient and oppressed class.

- b) The daughter was happy to serve her father the food the way she preferred. Her father cracked a joke, “RenuI should start looking for a bridegroom for you. It seems you can manage household.” (p.90)

The author expresses the idea that the main role of daughter in male dominated society was to serve the father or family by preparing food and managing household work. And role of father is looking bridegroom for daughter and arranging marriage instead of providing good education and creating freedom for her. For this extract Tyson (2006,p.90) states;

The good girl is rewarded for her behavior by being placed on a pedestal by patriarchal culture. To her attributes all the virtue associated with patriarchal feminist and domesticity. She’s modest, unassuming, self-sacrificing and nurturing. She has no need of her own, for she is completely satisfied to be serving her family. At times she may be sad about the problems of others, and she frequently worried about those in her care- but she is never angry.

Therefore, before given extract is also related to this theory which shows that female have been dominated to get freedom or to get education due to the patriarchal society. But they were compelled to serve home under the power of patriarchy.

- c) I will convince her. She has no children and everybody knows that one has to have a son to light the pyre of death. Otherwise she will .never reach heaven but be confined to hell, this, I think will convince her.” (p.125)

In this extract, the author expresses that women have no more freedom to save the property. If they had their son, they would be respected. When, female did not have any children or son, and then they had to face many suppression from the society. Here, in this extract, Radha had not children and her cousins were played many games to take property from Radha instead of showing care and love in critical situation.

- d) She too, wanted the same kinds of attention, hardly knowing the unpredictable consequences of early marriage. (p.2)

From this extract, I noticed that women have been receiving various types of suppression in their particular society. Early marriage also one form of female discrimination where there is a great role of father for doing early marriage. And role of female is passive in such decision. It means the female had not more chance to get freedom which is a cause of patriarchy in male dominated society.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of my study was to analyze a novel 'A Widow's Gift' from a feminist perspective. I have drawn findings, conclusion and recommendation from the analysis of sentences or extracts which are related to feminism. Findings, conclusion and recommendation of this study has presented as following:

5.1 Findings

From the analysis of sentences and extracts which are related to feminism represented in the novel 'A Widow's Gift'. I identified or analyzed many aspects of feminism like social, cultural and religious aspects of feminism, gender aspects of feminism, oppression upon women, aspects, women's right or freedom aspects of feminism and patriarchal aspects of feminism. They aspects have a vital role in feminism. The findings which had been deducted from the study are presented as following points:

- i. Female have been suppressed and dominated in Nepalese society due to patriarchal culture.
- ii. Nepalese women have been taken as in secondary class in any field.
- iii. Women have been dominated or oppressed by family as well society.
- iv. Society, culture and religion are prime factors to discriminate female and to establish gender inequality and to create oppression for women.
- v. Female have been discriminated from birth to till her death.
- vi. Female have been discriminated or dominated not only by male but also by female due to the patriarchal culture.
- vii. Female have been treated as secondary person and taken as weaker and inferior class in male dominated society.
- viii. Nepalese girls did not get opportunity to take education as same as boys due to the conventional superstition.

- ix. One female want to bring a change in the rule of society but she she could not get support even by female due to the power of traditional culture.
- x. Nepalese women have been limited into the kitchen and they were not allowed in their own decision making process.
- xi. Female have been depended on the income of male in society.
- xii. Women rights and freedom have been restricted in Nepalese society. Nepalese single women have not been provided any support to start new job or opening any institution.
- xiii. Female gender is meaningful when they give the birth of son otherwise they become a victim of oppression in male dominated family and society.
- xiv. Women have been discriminated as the name of gender, caste, class and so on.
- xv. Child marriage and widowhood are the cause for women discrimination in Hindu culture.
- xvi. Nepalese female have been dominated or discriminated by their parents, family and society even now they become a victim of suppression as obedient and servant of male people.
- xvii. Female have been bounded to walk freely at any time due to the cultural belief.
- xviii. Male have been served by the female birth to death. When she is in her childhood, she has to serve her father, after getting married she has to serve her husband and in law. When her husband dies she has to serve him till her death, then she was not allowed to be participated in auspicious occasions. Female have been dominated in any stage of her life.

5.2 Conclusion

From this study, it can be concluded that women have been dominated or treated differently due to these various aspects. They have been

treated negatively in every sectors of society and family, female have taken as the secondary, inferior, weaker, and obedient level in family as well as in society due to the lack of education . Nepalese female have been restricted to send for education due to the conventional culture. These aspects of feminism play a vital role to create inequality in society, which is one of the results to hinder the freedom of female. If there is gender inequality in the society, the society cannot be developed. Undeveloped society hinders the development of nation. Males and females are the two wheels of one cart therefore society or nation should provide equal access or equal rights. There should be awareness in society to omit oppression for female. The access of education should be provided for all girls instead of arranging them marriage in early age. Social, cultural religious, racial discrimination should be erased. And the males and females should be felt and treated equal in all domain of society and family.

5.3 Recommendation

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

5.3.1 Policy Related

Educational policy makers or language policy makers need to enhance and include the feminist literature in their language or literature courses. Feminist literature should be helpful to establish gender equality by removing gender inequality, domination and exploitation upon females. Thus education policy should be made for bringing a movement by making policy for school because school is the main source to bring equality in the society.

5.3.2 Practice Related

Practice level is the most essential part to establish gender inequality in the society. Teachers and students both should behave equally to both males and females in classes, schools, homes and societies. Literary text should be analyzed from the perspective of feminism because most of the literary text

have been carried the aspects of feminism directly and indirectly. The following ideas can be taken as a practice related recommendations of this study which are also known as pedagogical implications those which can be given on the following way:

- i. All the girls should be included in the access of literature classroom.
- ii. Teacher should behave both males and females equally in the ELT classroom.
- iii. Feminist literature should be helpful to establish gender equality in the society. So, it should be necessary to include the feminist literature in language course.
- iv. The literary text should be analyzed from feminist perspective as well as by teachers.
- v. Students and teacher of this modern age need to less believe on superstition, discriminative belief and patriarchal belief. They need to be changeable in the society by reducing gender inequality in the society.

5.3.3 Further Research Related

This study was only limited to analyze the aspects of feminism. Language and styles used by males and females in *A Widow's Gift* can be other issues of feminism which needs to be studied to expand the knowledge about feminism.

References

- Abrams, M. H. (2005). *A glossary of literary terms*. (8thed.). New Delhi: Harcourt Indian private Limited.
- Awasthi et al. (2011). *Exploration in English*. Kathmandu: RatnaPustakBhandar.
- Best, J. W. & Khan, J.V.(2009). *Research methodology in education*. (8thed.). New Delhi: Prentice Hall of India.
- Bhatta, P. (2013). *The feminist perspective in the novel 'The Bell Jar'*. An unpublished M.Ed. thesis, T.U., Kathmandu.
- Budha, S. (2013). *Gender issues in Raisin in the Sun: Critical discourse analysis*. An unpublished M.Ed. thesis, T.U., Kathmandu.
- Butler, J. (1990). *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity*. London: Routledge.
- Cohen, L. Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2007). *Research methods in education*. (7thEd.). India: Replica Press Pvt. Ltd.
- Cooper, F.(1993). *The Birth Imperative in Radical feminist literature*. A research guide .Simon Fraser University: British, Columbia.
- Daly, K. (1997). *Ways of Different conceptualizing sex/gender feminist in theory and their implications for criminology*: SAGE Publications; London, Thousand Oaks and New Delhi, ISSN 1362-4806 vol. 1(1):25-51.
- Daly, M. (1998). *GYN Ecology, the metaethics of radical feminism*. Bacon Press: Boston.
- Ghorfati, A.&Medini, R.(2013). *Feminism and its impact on women in the modern society*. Unpublished thesis of Master Degree in faculty of letters and language, Depar English. University of Tlemcen

- Haleem, S. (2014). *Challenging stereotype: A text analysis of Quisrashehraz's novel The Holy Women*. National university of modern languages, Islamabad, Pakistan. 74 (10), 56-61.
- Khanal, P. (2016). *Research methodology in education*. Kathmandu: Sunlight Publication.
- Khatri, D. S. (2016). *Feminist voice in the poetry: A case of poem from new paradigm*. An unpublished M.Ed. thesis, T.U., Kathmandu.
- Lamichhane, P. (2014). *Critical thinking & practical criticism*. Kathmandu: Oxford International Publication Pvt. Ltd.
- Lazar, M. M. (2007). *Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis: Articulating a Feminist Discourse Praxis, Critical Discourse Studies*, 4:2, 141-164.
- Mackinnon, C.A. (1982). *Feminism, Marxism, method and the state; An Agenda for Theory*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Madsen, D.L. (2000). *Feminist literary theory and literary practice*. London: Pluto Press.
- Millet, K. (1969). *Sexual politics*. London: Granada Publication.
- Mishra, S. (2008). *A widow's gift: A novel*. Varanasi: Pilgrim Publication.
- Mishra, S.S. (2015). *Women identity and self-assertion : A study of two : Contemporary retellings of Mahabharata*. An unpublished thesis of Master Degree, Department of Humanities and Social Science, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela.
- Poynton, C. (1990). *Language and gender making the difference*. Oxford: OUP.

- Selden, R. (1988). *A reader's guide to contemporary literary theory*. (2nd ed.). New York: Harvester Wheat sheaf.
- Sharma D. R. (2017). *The feminist perspective in the translated autobiographical essay 'Jeevankandakiphool*. An unpublished M.Ed. thesis, T.U., Kathmandu.
- Spelman, E. (1988). *The Essential women*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Spivak, G. C. (2008). *Can the subaltern speak?* JURIA+CANT.10-chapter 3 pdf.
- Thompson, D. (2001). *Radical feminism today*. London: SAGE Publication.
- Tyson, L. (2006). *Critical theory today*. (2nd ed.). New York: Taylor and Francisco Group.
- Vukoicic, J. (2013). *Radical Feminism as a discourse in the theory of conflict*. *Sociological discourse*. 3 (5), 33-49.
- Waugh, P. (2006). *Literary theory and criticism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Appendix I

Criteria	Sentences and extracts
1. Cultural and Social aspects	<p>a. She should always cover head with sari and help her mother in law and help her sister in law with their work inside or out.</p> <p>b. “She should always cover head with sari and help her mother in law and sister in law with their work inside or out.”</p> <p>c. “I always wished people who would change their attitude and support reform in our society, a stage for actors and actress to play many different role on”.</p>
2. Gender aspects	<p>a. “There is a great differences in Hindu society, however when a girl instead of boy is born.”</p> <p>b. “She always regretted that families, society and the nation did not pay proper attention to girl’s education.”</p> <p>c. “Our society has been moving in wrong ways. Who is going to do something if we don’t? Just see how Master Shiva and Radha are breaking the tradition by sending Sita and Gita to a boy school instead of arranging marriage for them. Shame, shame.”</p>
3. Oppression or domination	<p>a. “Widowhood is contagious disease_ women against women.”</p> <p>b. “The mother and grandmother had by then drawn themselves like turtle into the shell of their kitchen, since women were not supposed to participate in such matters.”</p> <p>c.</p>
4. women rights	<p>a. “Look at me I am not allowed even to go to the girl’s school. Can’t you tell my mother to at least engage a private tutor for me?”</p> <p>b. “Her community never conceded her much freedom.”</p> <p>c.</p>

5. operation of patriarchy	<p>a. “Radha came in to request them to come for dinner. The pandit and his son were served first.”</p> <p>b. “A gloomy couple was waiting to hear him pass judgment on their future. They already had eight daughter and still hoping for a son.”</p> <p>a.</p>
----------------------------	---