

Tribhuvan University

Gender Trauma in Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English , Tribhuvan
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the Degree of master of in English**

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Letter of Recommendation

ManjuRana has completed her thesis entitled “Gender trauma in Scoot Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night*” under my supervision. She carried out her research from February 2019 to July 2019. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled “Gender Trauma in Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night*”
submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by ManjuRana
has been approved by the undersigned members of the research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

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Abstract

This research paper analyses gender trauma on Fitzgerald's novel Tender Is the Night. Taking the ideas from Kali Tal, Judith Herman, CarthyCurth, UrvashiBhuthalia and Kamala Bhasin's notion of gender trauma the research analyses the mental illness of women and traumatic experience of women because of men's unnatural behavior. In Tender is the Night, the female characters are traumatized by the men's atrocities and increasing loneliness in domestic lives. Nicole is raped by her own father in her tender age and becomes a victims of sexual violence. The patriarchy is defined as a hypocritical nature of male atrocities and gender discrimination. Primarily, it focuses on the male atrocities which gives lots of torture to women. Women are traumatized from male atrocities and wild nature. Throughout the novel, Nicole represents the traumatic experience of women. Gender trauma is the consequences of male violence upon female and bearing sexual violence, suppression, oppression, domination and exploitation within their domestic sphere as well as public sphere in the society. The supreme ideology of male rules over the men trend society and constrained patriarchal norms and values. Gender trauma explicit when women remain in isolation, depression, rage, anxiety, and hyper alertness. The most crucial aspect is that they are from historically subordinated and on the side, they have no way out to reach their individual freedom. Under this kind of men's suppression and oppression, the reaction of women character is outburst beyond the limit of male atrocities and gender discrimination. The intention of narrator is to reduce the trauma and resistance against male attitude. Women are living insecure life, as they are not safe by men's immoral behaviour even their own father and brother. Women are in danger because of male atrocities in the text. The injustice towards women: such as rape, abduction and domestic violence should be discouraged. So that women remains free from such traumatic condition.

Gender Trauma in Fitzgerald's novel *Tender is the Night*

The main claim of this research is women are traumatized by male's unnatural behaviour and immoral behaviour. Women are suffering from gender violence because of ideological concept of male and social hostility towards women. Gender trauma does not occur naturally on female rather it is comes from male's unnatural and immoral behaviour. In the novel *Tender Is the Night*, the main female character Nicole is not traumatized naturally, she suffers psychological illness because of her father's immoral behaviour.

This research explores gender trauma in Fitzgerald's novel *Tender Is the Night*. In the novel, her own father rapes the main female character when her mother had recently died. From that sexual violence, Nicole becomes a patient of Hysteria. In the novel, another main male character is Dick Driver; he is a popular psychiatric doctor and model of American movies. Nicole was a victim of sexual violence and one psychiatric patient of Doctor Dick Driver. She has been treated well and is taken care by Doctor Dick Driver. She becomes normal and comes out from traumatic stress. She falls in love with her psychiatric doctor Dick driver but she hesitates to tell him. She was suffering from Schizophrenia. It is a disease caused out of some violence, horror incident and cruel violence. In the absence of her mother, her father raped her. Here, women are not secure from male's immoral and unnatural behaviour even their own father and brother. Men are too cruel and immoral towards women. Men always give torture and dominating to women. When Nicole gives birth to a baby girl, she starts to worry about her little girl's insecure future. This infant little girl brings her past memory about her therefore she starts to think about her past traumatic event, which has had done to her by her father. Just by those traumatic thoughts, she becomes more frustrated and suffers from psychological illness again.

All times, she becomes silent and tolerant and comes back to normalcy within a minute. She infers the girls are not free from any kind of male's violence. She stops to believe men and their fake behaviour. She believes females are just object for men as they are celebrating their happiness on female's life.

Women had been dominated and mistreated even much before that. Many women were victims of sexual violence and domestic violence during that time. Nicole thinks a lot about her daughter Topsy Driver's future. She had fallen into terrible madness after Topsy's birth because she was afraid for what may happen to her little girl. It is quite possible that the idea that Topsy would be hurt in the same way as she was, and doubts over her ability to protect her daughter, provokes the madness. In reality Dick Driver does not rape his daughter, Nicole thinks about her little girl's insecure life, wants to save her daughter from gender violence, which may happen by men's immoral behaviour. The only way to save her daughter from repeating her own history was to marry another man and better to leave her husband Dick Driver. Nicole was annoyed with men's wild nature and their fake behaviour. Women suffer from traumatic stress cause of men's unlimited desire. Many men do not care about their relationship and responsibility they just want to fulfil their own desire what they have, no matter what they should have to do to meet their ends. They want to fulfil their desire by using women. They want to play with female's body and fulfil their sexual desire. However, they do not care about female's feelings and wishes. As a result, women are left traumatised.

Nicole's father is also cruel and irresponsible father to Nicole. Her father raped her at the age of twelve years. Sometime she recalls her past traumatic event and she becomes silent and speechless to herself. She is disturbed from her past traumatic event and suffers a lot. She has fear and anxiety towards men.

Nicole claims that mothers have to be responsible and they have to provide security to their child in sharp contrast to it, many fathers are irresponsible and wild, they are cruel and brutal for their children and many children are been pushed in danger situation by their fathers. Many fathers, having bad sense, they are doing wrong to their children. She has traumatized by men's unnatural behaviour that is why Nicole has always afraid from men's unnatural behaviour. She wants to save her daughter from all violence, especially gender violence that badly valorized during that time. Nicole is seeking solution how to save her little girl's life. We can see how Nicole was worried for her little girl's insecure future. We can say, mothers are most important agents for children and they can sacrifice their lives without second thought. However, fathers are different because of their careless and irresponsible habits. Many father's minds are full of social ideologies. Many women and men are guided by social ideological concept that why they do not want to protest to men's rudeness. Males do not want to take care of their child. Many fathers want to escape from their responsibility towards their children and want to be free. In men trend society, many men have bad sense and bad habits. Because of men's immoral behaviour, women have been traumatized and beinga victims of gender trauma. Nicole is well educated and understands but because of her traumatic past event, she cannot move aheadin her life smoothly. She remembers her traumatic past when she sees men's unnatural behaviour around her.

Men have changeable behaviour; they change their behaviour according to time and situation. They do not care about their own responsibility and duty they just want to enjoy their life the way they like. Men have unlimited desire and bad sense towards women, many men who have that sense and desire they are doing wrong towards females. They do not care about women's feelings and want to play with

their body and they want to spend their life with women whatever way they want to live. Dick Driver does not care about Nicole as a wife. Dick has taken care of Nicole as a psychiatric patient. Dick Driver marries Nicole just for her happiness and recovery. His senior doctors suggest him to marry her because she has fallen in love with Dick. She wants to go ahead in her life that is why senior doctors suggest him to marry to Nicole and make her life comfortable. If Dick ignores her love then she may be traumatised again and may not survive. As a Doctor, They want to save her life from repeating trauma because she has recently recovered from trauma. That is why Dick Driver marries Nicole and starts their new life together. They have two babies: one is a boy and one is a girl. However, because of some problems and misunderstanding between Dick and Nicole, they cannot go ahead together in their life journey. When she gives birth to a baby girl, she starts to think about her safety. She is not satisfied from Dick Driver's activities and behaviour. She is more worried about her little girl's insecure future than her son is. Since she has traumatic experiences, she feels scared for her daughter.

Nicole's daughter is an innocent and a silent girl like herself. Dick Driver loves her and has taken care of her. However, she has doubts of her husband's activities towards her daughter Topsy. She thinks a lot about her little girl and thus suffers from psychological illness again. In our society, lots of violence are valorising such as rape, racial discrimination, gender discrimination, drugs etc. Different kinds of problems create different violence on people in society. Certain group of people had directly affected by that violence which are been valorised. Men trend society makes suitable rules for men where women are dominated in men trend society. In that, society women are mistreated and dehumanised. Women are used like animals; men do not understand women's feelings. In the novel *Tender is the Night* we see how women

are mistreated. Fitzgerald portrays the difficult life of American women during the early twentieth century. In the novel, Nicole was bold and educated because of her past traumatic event she cannot come out from her psychological illness. From the perspective of Dick Driver, Nicole is a sick and mental patient for him. Dick shows indifference towards her feeling and wishes. Dick does not give time to her and spend his free time with his other friends. He does not care about Nicole and family.

Fitzgerald's novel *Tender is the Night* shows the condition of women and how women's feelings are indifferent by men. During that time women were traumatized by men's unnatural behaviour. Women were dominated in the name of gender. Innocent women were becoming victims of gender violence in America during that time. Gender is constructed by men-made society and in the name of gender, men in men-trend society dominate women. During that time, women were raising voices for their right and equality. However, men-trend society does not listen to women's voice; does not want to give freedom to women like men. Women have been dominated and mistreated in that society. Men-trend society does not want to give equal position to women in the society. Because of social ideology, women are subdued and left to bear all male's atrocities because of lack of awareness and lack of women empowerment. Women are guided by social ideological concepts in men-trend society. Society creates ideological norms and values for women. Many women's minds are full of social ideologies that is why women do not want to protest towards men-trend society. Women are scared to say something about men-trend society. Women are suppressed from society and dominating in the name of gender. They do not want to fight with men because they are guided by social norms. They think that if they go against the social norms and values then society will charge upon them as sinners so they get scared to protest and against towards men. Women are living their passive life in front

of men. In the novel *Tender is the Night* Nicole also grows up same society, and adopts all social norms and values from that society. However, Nicole is revolutionary woman and she does not like male's immoral behaviour.

Mothers are more protective agent of children. If Nicole's mother was alive, she could have saved her from that sexual violence. Because of her father's immoral behaviour, she was a victim of trauma at a tender age. Men trend society gives more freedom to men and does not punish them. Nicole is a victim of gender violence because she is a woman, if there is a male instead of female then male cannot dominate upon male. Male cannot use another male to fulfil his desire, male cant wants to suppress to male. Male cannot rape by male because rape is gender trauma only females are victims of rape. They know male cannot fulfil another male's sexual desire that why males are not attacked by male during that time. Males are more secure and protected in men trend society. If Nicole is boy instead of girl then she has not been a victim of gender violence. In that men trend society, many girls are not free from gender violence. Many father rape their daughter, brother rapes their own sister during that period in America. During that, time rape is the most heinous crime in America.

The main case of gender violence is male's unnatural and wild behaviour. In this novel, we can see Nicole's story, how she had traumatized by male's unnatural behaviour. She is been recovered and survives her life well and she is able to handle the situation perfectly under the psychological illness. Her unconscious mind was seeking security for her little girl. Because Nicole's daughter also has a father like her father, so she is scared about her little girl's life.

The research assumes that the issue of gender trauma is noticeable in Scott Fitzgerald's novel *Tender is the Night*. In the patriarchal society, female's suppression

culture and hostility against barren are main causes that force women for traumatizing lot. During that period, women were being slowly aware about their rights and they were fighting for their equality in America. The situation of America was critical at that time. In the name of independent, people are started to live their individual life and being more materialistic in America during that phase. People are lived their modern life. At the time racial and gender, discrimination has taken place in America. Because of gender and racial violence, many people were lose their life. Especially this research paper is highlighted the gender violence. Women are not safe from gender violence. The phase early twentieth century has known as a women transcendental phase in America. At that, time women had raised for their right and equality towards American government. Women are aware about their right and freedom. They are not ready to bear male's atrocity onward and start to against men. Women are threaten by male's unnatural behaviour. Females are suppressed and misused by male, males think that females are made for fulfilling male's desire and for reproduction, they limited women's areas and value under this concept.

During that time women are subjected to various oppressive measure, they are marginalized, suppressed and women's power was estimated by male. Men thought women are weak and compared them with animals. Women lived their threaten life because of male. male's indifference is also the cause of gender trauma. Women were living their unsecure life and women were dominating by men. Some bold women had started to fight to American government for their right and equality in America. Females were victims of gender violence because of male's behaviour and social hostile

Insensitivity of husbands towards their wives is another cause of the increasing traumatic torture of women. In the novel, *Tender is the Night* Nicole was

more traumatized by her husband insensitive behavior toward her. Nicole had already traumatized by male's unnatural behavior. She was raped at the age of twelve and well care up by her psychiatric doctor Dick Driver that why she can survive her life easily. Dick Diver was the husband of Nicole but Dick had taken care up her as a psychiatric doctor. Dick had treated to Nicole as a patient not as a loving wife. Before married to Nicole, Dick had hired by Nicole's sister for Nicole's well treatment. Dick was not only a psychiatric doctor he was also the well American actor. In the novel another female character is Rosemary who is beautiful innocent and immature but independent girl. She is an actress of American movie. In the novel, Nicole had again traumatized when she knew the affair between Dick and Rosemary. Nicole feels more insecure herself as well as her little girl. Nicole wants to secure her daughter from all kinds of gender violence and male's unnatural behavior. Nicole does not want that her child also being the victim of sexual violence and suffer.

Nicole was the victim of sexual violence, suffers, and gets traumatized but later she overcomes recovers well but sometime some event force to remember her past and she suffers more from that trauma. When she gives a birth to baby girl then she thinks about her girl's future how to secure her little girl from father and male's irresponsible manner. In her views, men are manner less and more irresponsible than women that is why women are being a patient of psychiatric and some are lost their life because of men's irresponsible behavior and their over desire. We can see in the novel women are more responsible and protective agent of child. If Nicole's mother was alive then I am sure she is not raped by her biological father and if her mother was alive then her mother has taken care of her well. However, father forgets his own responsibility towards his child and doing wrong things upon his own daughter. These

kind of activities of men clearly show men's unnatural and wild behavior direct hurt to women.

Unlimited desire of men is the most important cause of women's traumatic stress. Nicole is bold and educated woman belongs to high-class. In addition, one mother of baby girl, she is over thinking about her daughter's future. She is a victim of gender violence because of female if incase there is male instead of female then male is not raped, would not be victim of gender violence. Men trend society is cruel for women. Men's cruel behavior and brutal nature are the cause of gender trauma. She guess that it can be possible to happen same case upon her daughter that is why she is more worried about her daughter's insecure life. She thinks that if Dick keeps relationship with her daughter's age girl Rosemary then that father can do anything upon her child when the same situation is comes like her own father's situation and there is more possibility to repeats same case to her little girl's life. Men are irresponsible and materialistic they do not care the relationship and they want only fulfill their desire what they have and women are direct affected by these kinds of men's activities. Same thing has been done in Nicole's life and she has traumatized and had begun a patient of schizophrenia. In my point of view, Nicole gives divorce to Dick because she is worried about her daughter's future. She has deeply analyzed the upcoming situation and wants to keep her daughter far from that men's violence. She understood closely the wild nature and immoral behaviors of men.

In America during the early twentieth century, people started to live their individual life whatever the way they like in the name of independent and modernism. In the name of living individual life, people become emotionless and indifference towards others. Because of that system women are more suffered and dominated. People are being materialistic and run after money they do not care other's life just

run to getting their aim no matter where they are and what they are doing for their wishes. In the name of modernism, people become crazy and wilder specially men. Women are dominating and staying silently under the men made rules. Women are dominating in the name of gender. During that time, women were suffering from different kind of gender violence such as rape and domestic violence. Man trend society creates meaning about women; women are just made for reproduction and fulfilling men's desires, society doesn't give more position to women like as men.

Numerous critics said domestic violence and women domination of American novel. Here this novel *Tender is the night*, women had marginalized and dehumanized by male's power. So many critics said about the female character of this novel, Nicole is a victim of domestic violence at her house. Critics talk about gender domination in Fitzgerald's novel. E.W Pitcher claims that in her research "Order and Disorder in the broken universe in *Tender is Night*". Pitcher claims that in his research paper the female character Nicole is dominate character and male character are so desire able and just playing with female emotion and love. He said Nicole is the dominate figure at the end of the novel and he said "we may best approach the novels meaning and art thought a considering of Fitzgerald's use of her one of the striking image of her. That Nicole is in her garden (book 1) chapter Vi"(155).

Garden is boundary on the side by the house. From which is followed and into which it ran on two sides by the old village and on the last by the cliff falling by leads to the sea. ...like to be achieve, through of time she is an impression, of repose that was an on stable and...leaving memory of what he had side said or done. (43)

Similarly revealing lines arrived at in Book 3. In the garden Nicole seems to be relaxed and wholly understood of suppressed and resistance of Nicole. Her child age

incident occurs to lead her to psychological disorder, tolerance, and embarrassment. In the novel, all male character is in power and female are been mistreated by male in this novel. Pitcher main argument is those females are dominated in novel *Tender is the Night*, not only dominate they are mistreated and traumatized by their gender violence. In addition, they are resisting against of gender violence and tend to be independent. We can see in the novel how Nicole tries to struggle with that traumatic incident and try to stop that kind of violence upon her girls so she is more aware about that incident which can be happen same thing upon her girls. She studies about that upcoming possible incident and more concern about that case.

Another critic Sarah Wood Anderson talk in “Reading of trauma and Madness in *Hemingway*, H.D., and Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night*” trauma is not occurring self and it is occurring by someone or something unnatural behaviour of human. In his comparative study of two novels he says about *Tender is the Night* by Fitzgerald. Here he said this trauma is not coming from self is comes from unnatural behaviour and conflict or war. He said about:

madness in modern literature Illness narratives often portray traumatized character pulled by forces by complied them to express their pain within repressive methods concealing that wondered mind. Conflicted by internalized regulation is about sexuality and gender. These characters bear psychic wounds that affect their identity, behaviour, and ultimately the narration of their trauma. Another more over and perhaps more common indicator of trauma is madness. (86)

In this novel *Tender is the Night*, women without control over either their lives or their minds. Women’s powerlessness manifest itself as depression and madness, including dramatic senses of hysteria. How different Nicole is, interim of power,

trauma and mental illness, from Colonial cantwell. Nicole is not her own masters, depending instead financially, economically and professionally on her family or husband. Is of the character suffers from her inability to create and shape her own destiny, and the burden of vulnerability causes varying levels of insanity. I am agreeing with Colonial idea Nicole is suffering from disease schizophrenia because of her rape cause. Her trauma is not coming automatically without happening anything. Therefore, trauma occur due to something unnatural behaviour and incident. Nicole is the victim of sexual violence. Under the base of these three review of literature in *Tender is the Night*, this research paper proved and explore male are the cause of gender violence. Most of the male action is directly harmful to women's psychology. Women are dominated and being the part of victims of lot of violence in the name of gender. Gender violence is the main issue of that period women are dehumanized and in this novel *Tender is the Night*, Nicole has traumatized psychologically because of her childhood abuse. Because of her father's unlimited sexual desire, she becomes victim of gender violence.

Inthe novel *Tender is the Night*, Fitzgerald represent the American women's domestic issue. During the period of twentieth century, women have had dominated by male and suffering from any kind of male domination. During that period in America, women are suffering from lots of problem such as a victim of sexual violence, domestic violence and gender violence. Males are so cruel and irresponsible human being this novel portrays this kind of male's nature. My claim is that females are not traumatized self but male has forced them to that situation. However, femaleshad direct affected by male's wildness behaviour in everywhere and every time. Females are not secure from any male even their own father and brother. Female's psychological illness is not produce by self. Here, the researcher explores

the gender trauma in female character Nicole. Many years later when she gives birth to girl again she is mental illness because fear of possible upcoming incident upon her child. Women have had traumatized by gender violence cause of man's wildness behaviour. They become victim of trauma. Taking this point in case, the researcher explores Fitzgerald novel's female character is psychological disorder because of her raped by her own father. She is victim of gender violence and traumatized by that incident. Here, main cause of psychological illness is sexual violence such as raped by her own father. Males think that female body is just for fulfilling men's desire. Damn care the relationship of them. Men are so cruel and irresponsible kind of human towards the female counterparts by using some of the models of trauma studies.

In general, trauma defines as a psychological emotional response to an event or an experience that is deeply distressing. Trauma definition refers to something upsetting such as being involved in an accident, having and illness or injury, a love losing a love one. However, it can also encompass the far extreme and include experience that are severely damaging such as rape. I am going to talk about gender trauma, people have different traumatic experience they are suffered from that different kind of event some event and traumatic experience is only happens on certain group of people.

Certain group of people are suffer by certain kind of problem, which produce trauma to them. Boys and girls have different types of experience of trauma at different rate. Girls are more often report sexual abuse, sexual harassment, physical punishment, and psychological distress compared to boys. Girls have more experience high rate of trauma in general. This is especially true for girls who are reported higher rates of trauma compared to even their men counterpart. Most of the studies show that over 70% of girls have experience of trauma in general and more frequently reported

sexual and physical abuse compared to boys. Gender trauma pointing the ideas, women are suppressed and dominated by men in society. Especially women had dominated and neglected by men in patriarchal society. They are suffering since history. The positions of women are zero in men trend society in history. Women are often reported sexual abuse, rape, gender discrimination, dowry system, and domestic violence. Women are victim of gender trauma since history. Some women are still bear all violence because of fear of some cultural norms and values.

So many critics and reviewer examined this novel from different points of view and the arrived at several result and conclusions. Some critics notice the issue of trauma seriously in the novel *Tender is the Night*. Since, the topic of gender trauma is unexplored. The researcher claims that it is original and interesting topic. In the novel, gender trauma faced by Nicole and others female character are need to be examined with the border analytical framework by using the theory of gender trauma. The researcher deeply investigates into this topic. The inner traumatic conflict of Nicole and the underlying parameters are the main domain of this research.

The researcher makes use of the concept of gender trauma. From the common concept of trauma to the specific notion of gender trauma would be use largely in this research. The text, *Bearing Witness: Literature of Trauma* by Judith Herman furnished the essential ideas of gender trauma theorists and their ideas in this research. The theoretical framework this research would constituted by the theory of gender trauma. The trauma of women is study in the context of patriarchy, sexual abuse, rape, gender discrimination, domestic violence and restriction imposed by tradition and constraints of marital life.

Tal's exploration of arenas of trauma she has chosen would constitute a strikingly original and valuable contribution to our understanding of trauma. Tal's

brilliant idea is that survivors of trauma create a literature of hurt that contributes to the dominant culture's self-understanding. Kali Tal makes us aware that traumatic experiences of personal narrative threaten the larger society because they reveal power relationships and social contradiction. Her work, *Worlds of hurt* makes important contributions to our understanding of cultural politics.

According to Tal about the existence of a separate literature of trauma that crosses genetic boundaries is convincing, provocative and timely. The social experience of being a female in men trend society is different from that of being a male. The shifting gender role and social structure are also determinants in measuring out who is traumatized to what extent. From these differences, socially defined the major causes of traumatic injury are gender roles, family roles, and others socially constructed stressors, which produce, pain and torture for gender trauma. In reality, it is completely possible that social issues are confounding factors in all aspects of trauma related research. Social differences and discrimination or hostility is a reality in the lives of all women. Women are socially suppressing and dominating by men trend society as a result, they are traumatized. In addition, being a victim of different violence is not women's weakness; they are dominated in the name of gender. Men are socially free, men trend society provide every right to them and announces men are strong figure of that society. However, women are discriminated and socially they are prove as a weak figure. Society limits their areas and right.

Gender differences exist in the trauma is also rooted in an event or series of event, but not necessarily in their direct experience. According to Alexander "such experiences is usually mediated, through newspaper, radio and television. For example: which involves a spatial as well as temporal distance between the event and its experiences" (57). Mass mediated experience always involves selective

construction, representation, since what is seen as the result of the action and decisions of professionals as to what is significant, and how it should be presented. Another gender theorist Kamala Bhasin who is an Indian writer, she says about gender trauma “gender differences in the projection of serious mental illness of women. There is a direct relation between the proximity and intersection between the psychic condition of women and their ways of using means to deal with such agony” (53). In her book *Inception of Trauma and Gender Role*. Although, the national or cultural trauma always engages with a meaning struggle, a grappling with an event that involves identifying the nature of the pain. The nature of the victim and the attribution of responsibility always come together. The research will be based on the ideas of Tal, Judith Herman and other trauma theorists like Urvashi Butalia, Kamala Bhasin and Curthycaruth. Urvashi Butalia is a feminist writer and she talks about gender trauma. In her book, *the other side of silence* she argues that female survivors of Indian partition are lived with the rape and abduction. They try to forget such an event from their mind. Its effect cannot be deleted from the mind. It is very difficult to accept such a bitter reality for them. Many factors play a certain role in making women powerless and undoubtedly called the factors that contribute to trauma. The hopelessness and powerlessness of women is the root cause of their vulnerability. Urvashi Butalia capturing this concept of causality, she suggests that through her book *The other side of silence*.

The miserable and directionless life of Nicole enables the research to make use of the theory of gender trauma. When women are compelled to assume traditional gender roles, conflict and freedom, women have to encounter several factors. Which drag their progressive pace and push them ahead on the way to transformation. As a result, they are disturbed and disappointed by the conflicting attitude. Judith Herman

is the leading theorist of gender trauma. She makes the following revelation about the core theoretical notion of gender trauma:

The adaptations and responses women typically develop throughout their lives as a result of chronic abuse are shaped and determined by multiple factors. These factors include gender socialization into traditional nature of femininity, sexism, racism, poverty and other social condition of their lives.

The ways in which women are socialized to internalize these experiences and women's greater social powerlessness resulting from gender inequality lead to significant gender differences in women's mental health issues and needs. (78)

The ways of women are brought up in society makes them fundamentally different from other men. No matter how much female struggles to be equal to men. Women remain substantially different because they grow up by assimilating different sorts of norms and values. The internalized codes and conducts enforce women to act and behave in a different way. The manifestation of differences brings them in conflicting relations with society. The dogmatic and rigid society makes dominant practices inflexible. That is why it creates traumatic agony. These differences affect the way in which women's mental health. The following lines justify this point:

The mental trouble is all over and besides that I am completely broken and humiliated if that was what they wanted. My family have shamefully neglected me, there is no use asking them for help or pity. I have had no money and it is simply ruining my health and wasting my time pretending what is the matter with me. (182)

In the above-cite, Nicole feels that her family does not care about her future. She feels that her family humiliated and neglected her. She does not know why she has been neglected and humiliated by her family. This abstract is so painful. She writes her

pain and stress and isolates feelings to Dick Driver in her latter. She is very upset to her family because her family does not care her feelings and wishes. She wants to live like others girls. But her family leave her alone in hospital. She wants her family's company but it is not possible to her. She is annoyed to her family. Nobody told her what had actually happened to her so she is too much traumatize. She feels that her family does not respect her feeling; she is alone and suffers lot in that place. She needs family care and support but her family do not understand her wishes. She is hunting by loneliness and isolate so sometimes she become aggressive and sometime she becomes normal because of loneliness. She does not have friends to talk and share her feelings. Because of family separation and loneliness, she feels more pain and stress and becomes traumatizes lot.

Kali Tal has enumerated some of the chronic factors that make an assault on the delicate psychological of women. The men trend society always acts as threat to the integrity of women's psyche. In brief, Kali Tal makes the following view:

Experience of sexual violence and abuse in women's live instill lesion in, and reinforce, what it means to be female in this society that is , being relatively disempowerment and with compromised or non-existence rights to autonomy and bodily integrity. The pervasive problem of men's violence in our society, combined with experience of gender inequality, often reinforce the earlier incidents of threat and danger inherent in the experiences of childhood abuse.

(55)

According to Kali Tal, early experience of sexual violence teach woman abuse survivors lessons about betrayal, physical and emotional danger and what it is to be dominated. Women who have not been sexually abused share the reality of living in a

society where there is gender inequality and potential for male sexual and physical violence.

In *Tender is the Night*, gender trauma happens when there is; rape, abduction, sexual violence and gender discrimination in the society. Trauma is a psychological wound and it repetitively hunts to a person from the past event memory. Mostly women are victim of gender trauma because they are suffered from the patriarchal oppressive society. Nicole is a woman of modern way of thinking and she is educated and wants to independent but because of her mental illness people do not believe upon her. One day, her father in this way rapes Nicole:

People used to say what a wonderful gather and daughter we were –they used to wipe their eyes. We were just like lovers-and then all at once we were lovers-and ten minutes after it happened I could have shot myself-expect I guess I am such a God-damned degenerate I did have the never to do it. (191)

In this above extract, Nicole's father feels guilty and shamefully he tells that what actually happened to Nicole. Her father seems distinguished prominent and magnificently successful but inwardly he is weak and mad because of his disgusting, incestuous tenderness of his mind. Since her birth, he loves to his daughter seems natural and he tries to act as a mother pass away. Her father's mysterious loves turn into distractive love for Nicole. His mysterious love comes out while he goes forward to tell the event to Dohumler. Above line reveals the fact that he has already made incestuous relationship with his daughter. She suffers from mental illness and depression. Because of the guilty feeling, she suffers badly she is change into neurotic. She requests to her father to forget about the incident she says: "Oh, no! She almost-she seemed to freeze up right away. She had just, 'Never mind, never mind, Daddy. It does not matter. Never mind'(191).

Nicole feels so shameful and when her father feels guilty and shameful on his unnatural and shameful mistake to her. She says above dialogue to her father to forget that incident she is more traumatized from this incident.

Similarly, one of the leading trauma theorists Cathy Caruth's famous ideas of latency argues that trauma as it first takes place is uncertain but that the survivor's uncertainty is not a simple amnesia. According to her, the person who experiences unbearable pain the psychological defence of dissociation allows life to go on but at a great cost. Caruth's ideas reinforce the fact that trauma cannot be forgotten. It always comes in the form of memory. Caruth notes:

Trauma describes overwhelming experiences of sudden or catastrophic events in which the response to the event occurs in the often delayed and uncontrolled repetitive occurrence of hallucinations of the soldier faced with and massive death around him, for example, who suffers this sight in a numbed state only to relive it later on in repeated nightmares is a central and recurring image of trauma in our century. (181)

As Caruth argues that the effects of Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* Nicole is a woman who marries Tommy after divorce. In her tender age, her father rapes her. Father made her the victim of his lust. This unforgettable event always haunts Nicole and she is the traumatized character. This is only an example of Nicole but like her, many women are suffered in domestic violence and victimized where is consisting the rule of men's society. The male supremacist's ideology always exploited and dominated to women where women's life is partial fulfillment and subordinated. Gender trauma does not occur naturally. It occurs from men's unnatural behaviour. Trauma is unspoken pain, which cannot be expressed in language and cannot be felt by others. Trauma repeats when a same event comes and happens. In novel, *Tender is the night*

Nicole suffers again when she gives birth to a girl. Nicole is afraid when she sees the deep relation between father and daughter. In this following line Nicole tells her panic life how she is suffered again. “But I was gone again by that time-trains and beaches they were all one. That was why he took me travelling but after my second child, my little child Topsy was born everything got dark again”(237).

In this extract, we see Nicole's hidden pain. Before her second child she is happy and Dick Driver caring of her well. But after her second child birth then everything got dark again in her life, the reason is her daughter. In my opinion, she becomes more afraid about her daughter's insecure life. She is full of fear and scary because of her daughter she thinks more and more about her daughter and compares her daughter's life with her panic life. She thinks that her daughter will suffer from same problems and gets hurt from men's immoral behaviour without any crime. She compares her past and present life and longing security for her innocent daughter. She does not want to see her daughter in danger. She always thinks that after born her second child Dick starts to be indifferent to her and she feels Dick is ignoring her. After her second child, Nicole remembers her panic tender age and taking stress. Moreover, she feels Dick is a bad father and bad husband, he can do anything wrong with them so she is frightening about what will happen in her daughter's life. Therefore, she says that everything got dark again when her second child was born. In this line, we feel Nicole's whole hidden pain how much she is suffering and traumatised. She is psychologically frightening with men even her husband.

Another female character, Rosemary is frightening with men behaviour. Caruth proposes is that trauma compels us to imagine that traumatic events do not simply occur in time. Rather they fracture the very experience of time for the person

to whom they happen. She says the pathology cannot be defined either by the event itself. Cairns makes the following point about trauma:

Trauma is understood as an external bodily injury is general. It is also defined as a “mental condition caused by several shocks, especially when the effects last for a long time. In this latter sense particularly in the psychiatric literature, the trauma is understood as a wound inflicted not on the body but upon the mind.” (25)

A psychological trauma is something that enters the psyche that is so overwhelming that it cannot be assimilated by usual mental processes. The psychological trauma is not confined to the single shock that comes with an assault. The form of trauma that the researcher addresses is emotional injury, sometimes sudden and unexpected, sometimes taking place during a prolonged time.

Similarly in the novel *Tender is the Night* as a traumatic character when Nicole is in hospital she feels more traumatised but her family does not understand her feelings and condition. She is a victim of childhood abuse. She thinks that doctor Dick Driver is one person who cares for her every feeling that is why she shares her loneliness and mental stress with him. “Rosemary looked out from them all uncomfortable wishing her mother had come down here with her. She did not like these people, especially in her immediate comparison of them those who had interested her at the other end of the beach” (12). Rosemary feels scared without her mother. She feels uncomfortable and insecure there because people are looking at her and almost all people are male so she feels scared and wants to run away from there. She is a famous Hollywood actress and an immature girl. Her mother always gives company to her without her mother she cannot do anything properly. Mother is the first teacher and protective to children.

Mother provides especial guidance to the children. Rosemary afraid from those people who are interested to her at the others end of the beach. From this extract, we can say women are always afraid by men who are guiding by bad sense. Moreover, mothers are the protective agent and backbone to children. Women are always afraid by men because many men are show their cruel and immoral behaviour to women. That is why Rosemary also scary when she is stand-alone in-between of men. Therefore, she missed her mother company mother's courage, which gives her relief and security. If Nicole's mother was with Nicole then Nicole is not a victim of sexual violence. Mother is the light for their children. "Think how you love me she whispered "I don't ask you to love me always like this but I also you to remember"(67). Nicole tells to Dick Driver, when dick driver does not give time for Nicole. She feels alone and doubt in husband's love. Moreover, she says this painful dialogue to her husband. She loves him like a lover forever its does not means Dick should to love her in return. However, she always loves him and to beautify in her heart. She loves to him unpleasantly because of this she is suffers a lot from loneliness and being a mental. Indifferent of her husband she feels very alone and her psychologically disturbed. In addition, she is afraid about losing dick Driver. Because she loves him, more and more than self in the world that person unknowingly gives torture to her. However, Dick have affair to another person Rosemary so Dick only think that Nicole is a psychiatric patient for him. He does not care Nicole feeling and pain after meet another innocent person Rosemary. She loves truly and her true love hurt her too much because of irresponsible husband. She wants that her husband understand her each and every feelings and problems without ask. For her, no matter he loves or not but she never stop to love him. She understands men's habit that is why she controls herself to telling this dialogue to dick. She is traumatise from her

husband indifferent and disrespectful habit. The fate and future of American women in the western society of the early twentieth century has clearly reflected through the traumatic condition of Nicole.

There is nothing to about it. He said with a feeling of panic, I am in love with you but it does not change what I said last night “that does not matter now just wanted to makes you love me- if you love me everything is all right unfortunately I do. But Nicole must not know – she must not suspect even faintly. Nicole and I have got to go on together. (112)

The extra marital affair of Dick Driver, we understand the men behaviour. How men re changed according to time and condition. Many men are crazy for women and they take women as a sexual object. They don't know the value of family's relationship. Dick is similar to those men who are crazy for women. First he like Nicole and keeps relation to Nicole and after meet Rosemary he starts to indifferent Nicole and attaché with Rosemary when he saw beautiful innocent girl then he forget her beautiful wife and children. He just wants her unpleasantly. Dick falls in love with rosemary and wants to keep relation to her. Dick does not want to expose his affair in front of Nicole and hide his affair to Nicole. He says to Rosemary that Nicole is metal patient and his relation to Nicole is so complicated that is why if Nicole knows their affair Nicole becomes nervous and may happens wrong thing so Dick afraid about the condition of Nicole health. Knowing this all but he hurts Nicole to keeps extra marital affair to Rosemary. Dick only loves and takes care Nicole as a mental patient not as a wife. Rom this all activities of Dick, Nicole suffer a lot and traumatized.

The over desire habit of men, women are traumatized a lot since history. When men see a beautiful girl and women they forget their responsibility and being immoral and wild and starts to fulfil their desire in any cost and any situation. “She

laughed in agreement, staying close to him so you understand, my relation with Nicole are complicated” (113). In this line clearly saw the relation between Nicole and Dick driver what kind of relation they had. Here Dick only focuses on Nicole critical health situation and as a Doctor, he have responsibility to take care of Nicole. We cannot feels that Dick takes care Nicole as a wife because he is also the playboy who play with women’s felling. In addition, Dick confidently keeps his relation to Rosemary because he is attract by her beauty and pettiness. Dick can leave Nicole if she is normal person like Rosemary but she is a patient of psychiatric and a victim. That is why as a Doctor Dick taken care her. This kind of sense of Dick, she is traumatized and suffered. Dick does not care Nicole’s feeling and still Dick does not understand Nicole closely. He forgets that he is a father of two children and husband of Nicole when he saw young Rosemary. Here Dick also behaves like others men when he see beautiful and young girl. The relationship is take easily by men it weightless and normal for men. Men are not care about women’s feelings and they take women as an object and behave like animal. Dick wants to stay in relationship with beautiful young lady Rosemary. He wants to play with Rosemary’s feelings and wants to fulfil his sexual desire. However, he is worry about Nicole’s health condition because he is a Nicole’s psychiatric doctor as a doctor worrying about patient health is normal because he should have to save her life from mental illness. Nicole has everything but when Dick see Rosemary beauty then he becomes crazy in her beauty. Because of his craziness about Rosemary, Nicole has in troubled and fells uncomfortable. This kind of behaviour of Dick gives torture and tension to Nicole. Men use women as objects. Men are crazy in outer looks of women but internally they are not attracted to women. From Dick extra marital affair show, he does not respect Nicole’s feelings as well relationship. Her husband disrespects Nicole’s true love. He

is not worry about his children. He is not perfect and responsible father because he forgets all when he saw young beautiful woman in front of him. Dick behaviour provides pain and torture to Nicole. Many men are cruel and immoral so that many women are being directly affected by their behaviour.

According to Kamala Bhasin, “many women and children who are abused may be trapped and rendered powerless in physical, economic and psychological ways. The responses to coercive control are numerous, including accepting the perpetrator’s world view”(89). Such a world view legitimates “the abuse, feeling dissociated; losing faith or hope; withdrawing socially or becoming isolated; and feeling self-hatred”(59). On the strength of Bhasin’s view on gender trauma the researcher proceeds ahead in her analytical task.

The more the pain of family’s separation lengthens the more traumatic tortured she feels. It is her husband’s failure to attend to Nicole’s needs and emotional concerns that compels her to get attached emotionally to Tom. Dick Driver indifferent her when he falls in love with another beautiful girl Rosemary. Nicole feels guilty and shameful when she remembers her past event in party time. During that time, her husband does not care and he is with another girl. Because of that, Dick’s behaviour Nicole becomes crazy hurt herself without second thought. Following line, show how Nicole is crazy: “with the ideas that Nicole had fallen in the bathroom and hurt herself, rosemary followed Dick that was not the condition affairs at which she started before Dick shouldered her back and brusquely blocked her view” (166). In this cited, Nicole had fallen in the bathroom, hurt herself because of Dick indifferent towards her, and does not care her feelings. Dick always looking to Rosemary’s activity and following her and he is totally attracted by Rosemary. Every time Dick and Rosemary are together, so Nicole feels so disparagement its gives tension and mental torture.

She has two baby so she has lot of responsibility towards them and cares them carefully. She does not forget her all responsibility and duty, which she have. However, her husband forgets all duty and responsibility when he falls in love with Rosemary. Nicole hurts herself because she knows all everything is going wrong since her childhood. She is totally upset from her own life and fate. She loves to Dick very much but that person does not respect her love and breaks her innocent heart. So Nicole cannot bear this and fells hopeless and alone very alone that is why she starts to hurt herself. She is a psychiatric patient that is why small bad incident and event hurt her too much. She thinks more and more about Duck because she is afraid to lose man whom she loves more that person starts to hurt her. She suffers a lot. Dick changeable behaviour gives her lot tension and mental stress. So many men are cruel, they do not understand women's feelings and wishes, and they always create problems towards women. When they get chance, they start to dominate and humiliate to women. This habit of men, women had been traumatized lot since history.

"I am slowly coming back to life...today the flowers and the clouds..." (183). Here she feels little bit well and write letter to Dick. She tells that she becomes normal and slowly coming back to life she wants to leave her history and tension back and wants to move ahead but the problem is that she is in hospital for her treatment. In hospital nurse does not understand her feelings. She needs friend and family but in hospital, she could not get home environment. She wants to come out from this hospital and live like normal people. She feels that her mental condition is all right so she does not want to stay in hospital. She needs help to come out from that hospital but no one wants to help to take out her from there. Everyone think that she is still not well and she needs more treatment and she needs hospital environment. However, they do not understand her loneliness and isolation then she tells all her pain to Dick through

letter. She told to Dick come and take out her from hospital. She is more traumatized and takes stress because of her past.

Another girl also suffering from Dick's behaviours that is Rosemary she is crazy in Dick's love. Dick plays with another innocent girl. Following lines show how she loves to Dick Driver:

I love him mother, I am desperately in love with him- I knew I could feel that way about anybody. And he is married and like her too- it just hopeless oh I love him so I am curious to meet him, she involved us to dinner friendly, if you are in love it ought to make you happy you ought laugh (33).

Throughout the novel, Rosemary maintains this independence and while everyone else declines around, her character remains stable. She cannot live completely in her own terms she is still subject, to the rules and expectations imposed upon her by a patriarchal society. However, through the existential freedom Rosemary does not control her passion and spontaneous will, which can be seen in above lines. She falls in love with Dick Driver and she wants only Dick and damn care others things she knows everything but she falls in love with Dick madly so she is crazy in Dick's love however, she wants to Dick. She is an immature girl so she needs guidelines so her mother is a good councillor to her. Dick takes care of her well and loves her but she does not know that Dick's passion. Dick loves her just for time. He does not love sincerely and heartily. Dick loves her physically but Rosemary falls in love madly. Here we can see, women are innocent and pity they do not know the fake love and true love but men play with them and destroy their prestige and raped them in the name of love.

Conclusion

After the detailed analysis and study of Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, the researcher has clearly sketches the traumatic experiences of female in the early

twentieth century western society. The core finding of this research is that when men immoral nature, patriarchal suppression and domination go to limit, women are bound to suffer. This research has come up with the idea that Fitzgerald, by depicting the miserable condition of the protagonist, Nicole who is suffering from the unbearable traumatic effect because of the deeply rooted male-dominated western society. In the novel *Tender is the night* a female character Nicole is compelled to live a traumatic life from her Tender age- when her mother had died. She is raped and deceived by her family and Doctor Dick Driver in western society.

In the novel protagonist, Nicole is physically and mentally suppressed, exploited and dominated these are the original sources of gender trauma. In western society during the early twentieth century, women were deprived from their individual rights, which are caused by traditional patriarchal norms and values. The male attitude towards female is cruel, brutal, selfish and tyranny which invites violence of male character. The existence of male is given high priority in comparing with female. The researcher finds out there is not parallel freedom of gender equality even in the high class in men trend society where is gender biased male oriented and injustice towards woman evokes the cause of trauma. There is lack of security and women's right, which is generated gender trauma in female character.

In the novel *Tender is the Night* Fitzgerald present the idea through different events and incident which had happened in Nicole's life story like the event with her father and with her husband. There is not feeling of love relation between husband wife and father and daughter. Male characters are presented with cruel, brutal and irresponsible. The relation, work and responsibility between husband and wives, father and daughter are dependent on men's mood in men trend society. The protagonist, Nicole is forced to live a terrific, torturous, panic, fearful and scary life as

psychiatric patient in men trend society. The researcher finds out she is traumatic figure as well as she is suffered from the traumatic experience of gender violence in the novel.

In the novel, *Tender is the Night* the protagonist is traumatized because of male atrocities, sexual violence, rape. Here females are portrayed as a male's priority and goods through male can use them according to their wish in the novel. Nicole is raped by her father and becomes a patient of schizophrenia, father use her physically and sexually instead to love her. Because of her father wild nature is suffers lot and traumatise. Her husbands also use her like goods. She is longing secure life of her daughter Topsy. She has divorced to her husband Dick and marry to another man Tommy for her daughter's secure life. It also shows the real situation of women, how they used to suffer traumatic life in the men trend society. In the post-colonial time, women could not do anything against the men trend society. Women are in Zero condition. The men trend society would not listen their voice. Nicole divorces to Dick Driver it symbolized the way of revolution by leaving her husband she wants to established women's right, equality, freedom and women's identity in men trend society. The gender trauma in woman is a complex phenomenon when they are suffered from physically punished, emotionally betrayed, sexually exploited rape and mentally tortured.

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