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STUDIES ON GENDER INEQUALITY, AND MALE DOMINATION WITH REFERENCE TO SELECT
PLAYS OF VIJAY TENDULKAR

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Vijay Dhondopant Tendulkar is a renowned Marathi playwright. His plays deals with the theme of submissiveness, vulnerability, gender discrimination, mixed emotions and struggle for survival. The present study is based on the plays- *Sakaram Binder* and *kanyada*. Tendulkar's plays portrays the issues of the society. Women play a central role in Tendulkar's plays.

Sakaram Binder depicts the life of helpless women being utilized by a man as a means of slave who is entitled to obey all the words of her master whatever be it. Sakaram poses himself as a savior to the vulnerable women who are either discarded by their husband or who is a widow. He feels that he is doing a great service by bring them home and providing them a shelter. In return he expects them to abide by the rules set by him which also includes the role of a wife. He does not show any sort of an attachment or bonding towards any women who lives with him. He does not sympathize and on the other hand treats them in a very meager manner.

He uses abusive terms to show his supremacy over the so called weaker sex. He uses them as a tool for his well being and shoves them away when they try to retaliate. His treatment towards Laxmi shows his true nature as a beastly human being. He tortures her both physically and mentally. Sakharam's friend Dawood too sympathizes Laxmi's plight but remains helpless. The entry of Champa creates a different impact on him. He gets mesmerized in her company and sometimes excuses her for her misdeeds but that too does not last long. Champa's efforts to move away from the clutches of her master paves way for her fatal end. The mental agony and the torment faced by the women characters are clearly portrayed by the dramatist through the words of the character itself. The feeling of agony and mixed emotions are clearly highlighted through the words of female character.

Kanyadan highlights the problems in inter-caste marriage. Nath belonging to the Brahmin family and an MLA uses his own daughter as an experimental agent and leads her into the institution of marriage to a Dalit youth. Arun the dalit youth who had undergone the torture of vulnerability in life tries to take revenge on his wife who belongs to the higher standard of society. The central character Joythi portrays the unsuccessful life of an educated girl hailing from an upper middle class family. Caste plays a major role in her life. She falls in love with a Dalit youth who possesses certain negative qualities inherited by his community. She steps into the institution of marriage with the hope that love can change the nature of any human being. She fails to listen to the advice of her mother who tries to advice her not to take a wrong decision but was being intervened by her father who provokes her to move forward with her decision. He uses her as an experimental tool with the thought that his present act would fetch him fame in society. He finds out the beastly nature of the Dalit youth named Arun when he had a conversation with him. He tried to neglect his flaws with the thought that his daughter would be able to bring about a change in the boy's life.

Marriage life turned out to be a utter failure to Joythi. All her efforts to change the nature of her husband proved to be in vain. Arun on the other hand tried to live a life of a parasite by sending his wife for

work. He tormented her in all possible ways with the thought of taking revenge over the community which had degraded humiliated him and his ancestors over decades. He did not show any sense of remorse for the injustice he had been doing towards his wife. He only treated her as an object to be hampered and derived pleasure in seeing her struggle in his hands. His false notion that women should be treated as an object to be used in any ways possible was inherited from his generation. He failed to understand the reality of life and did not show any sort of compassion towards his wife who had left all comforts and pleasures behind and moved in with him with lots of dreams and aspiration.

Joythi proves to be a typical Indian women by all means whatever maybe the standard of living. Hailing from a higher caste society and moving to a lower level of living caused a lot of apprehensions in her life. Whatever maybe the standard of living she abides by the Hindu culture and law that husband is to be worshiped whether he possess the quality of a saint or a beast. Though her father Nath repents for the mishap meted out to his daughter remains helpless. Joythi on the other hand accuses her father and her husband for her condition and accepts life by saying she has to lead a life that is meant for her.

Through his writings Vijay Tendulkar mocks at the society for treating women in such a manner where she is just being used as a commodity. The themes on vulnerability and emotions are highlighted in his plays. Gender discrimination plays a major role in all his plays. He portrays the real life incidents in his plays. Women are treated unequally by men. All their efforts to emerge as a phoenix bird proves to be futile as the male supremacy and domination still prevails in the society.

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