



Exploring Gender Violence And Narratives As Non-Traditional Security Concerns In India

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Abstract

An examination of the complicated problem of gender violence in India is presented here, with the goal of presenting it as a non-traditional security concern. Using Rashid Jahan's *Parde ke Peeche*, Ismat Chughtai's *Chauthi ka Joda* and *The Quilt*, and Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence*, the research investigates the narratives and literary representations of gender violence in these works of literature. By shedding light on the challenges that women face and the resiliency they exhibit, these works provide a comprehensive understanding of the social and cultural conditions that contribute to the perpetuation of gender violence. A critical work that sheds light on the widespread problem of domestic abuse is *Behind the Closed Doors: Domestic abuse in India*, which is also investigated in this article. The purpose of this study is to highlight the significance of tackling gender violence not only as a social problem but also as a key security risk that has an impact on the nation's stability and growth. This will be accomplished via the analysis of these tales. According to the results, a complete awareness of the issue of gender violence and a strategic approach to addressing it may result in more successful policies and interventions, which in turn contribute to the general security and well-being of society. With the intention of making a contribution to the current conversation on female violence and highlighting the need of a paradigm change in the way that such problems are seen and dealt in India, this is being done.

Keywords: Gender-based violence, Patriarchy, Domestic violence, Feminist literature,

Introduction

The issue of gender violence is a ubiquitous problem that extends beyond the limits of culture, economics, and society. It presents substantial problems to the safety and well-being of people and communities all over the globe. Domestic violence, sexual harassment, honour murders, and other types of physical and psychological abuse are all examples of the many manifestations of gender violence that may be found in India. Patriarchal norms, cultural practices, and socioeconomic inequality continue to be the driving forces behind gender violence, which continues to be deeply ingrained in the social fabric despite the existence of

legal frameworks and policy measures that are intended to defend women's rights. The objective of this study is to investigate gender violence in India through the lens of non-traditional security concerns, with a particular focus on the wider consequences that these acts of violence have for the stability and development of society. Through the analysis of literary tales that show gender violence, the purpose of this research is to bring attention to the lived experiences of women, their fights for justice, and the reactions of society to their predicament.

The primary sources for this research include Rashid Jahan's *Parde ke Peeche*, which offers a critical view of women's lives behind closed doors; Ismat Chughtai's *Chauthi ka Joda* and *The Quilt*, which challenge societal norms and expose the harsh realities of women's lives; Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence*, which delves into the internal conflicts and resilience of women in the face of systemic oppression; and *Behind the Closed Doors: Domestic Violence in India*, a comprehensive examination of domestic violence within Indian households. Through the examination of these texts, the will investigate the ways in which gender violence is not only a private matter but rather a serious security problem that has an effect on the larger socio-economic and political structure of the world. Understanding the nuances of gender violence and the urgent need for effective solutions is made possible via the tales, which give a rich framework for doing so. The purpose of this investigation is to make a contribution to a more nuanced understanding of gender violence and to argue for policies that address the underlying causes of this prevalent problem as well as its wider implications.

- **Rashid Jahan's Parde ke Peeche**

Behind the Veil, also known as *Parde ke Peeche*, is a key essay written by Rashid Jahan that courageously addresses the terrible circumstances that women in India were going through at the beginning of the 20th century. Jahan, a pioneering female writer and a member of the Progressive Writers' Movement, used her creative skills to question deeply ingrained patriarchal standards and fight for women's rights. She was a member of the movement. It is a forceful criticism of the social institutions that limit women to the private worlds of their homes, and it exposes the harsh reality of their life behind the veil. *Parde ke Peeche* serves as a powerful critique of these social systems.

Parde ke Peeche is a groundbreaking work by Rashid Jahan that critiques the patriarchal institutions that oppress women in Indian culture. The one-act play highlights the physical and mental abuses women face, particularly in their household life. Jahan's vivid and empathic narrative highlights the inner lives of her female characters, their hardships, and their resilience. The play critiques the institution of marriage, which is seen as a site of control and servitude for women.

Jahan's art is notable for its honest representation of forbidden matters, such as marital rape and domestic abuse, which were rarely addressed openly during her time. These topics were considered taboo and questioned the cultural silence surrounding female violence. By addressing these concerns, *Parde ke Peeche* questions the cultural silence surrounding female violence and advocates for a reexamination of power relations within Indian homes.

The power of Jahan's message is amplified by her writing style, which is characterized by simplicity. She uses a realism technique to represent everyday but emotional events in her characters' lives, making their experiences familiar and their suffering tangible. This literary method evokes empathy from readers and serves as a call to action, encouraging society to recognize and confront the predicament women find themselves in.

Parde ke Peeche is a groundbreaking piece of literature that criticizes patriarchal institutions responsible for women's oppression in Indian culture. It highlights the importance of gender equality and challenges cultural conventions that perpetuate gender violence by revealing hidden truths of women's household life. This work continues to be an important addition to feminist literature and stimulates conversations about women's rights and social justice issues.

- **Ismat Chughtai's Chauthi ka Joda and The Quilt**

Chauthi ka Joda and The Quilt, both written by Ismat Chughtai, provide even more light on the intricate nature of gender interactions in India. Chauthi ka Joda looks into the cultural expectations and pressures that are associated with marriage, whilst The Quilt (which was first named Lihaaf) controversially covers topics such as female sexuality and domestic oppression. In his work, Chughtai offers a forceful criticism of the patriarchal institutions that are responsible for the perpetuation of gender violence via his daring narrative and multifaceted characters. The towering figure that is Ismat Chughtai in the world of Urdu literature is recognized for her unrepentant and courageous examination of women's concerns as well as her questioning of the rules that society has established. Chauthi ka Joda (The Wedding Suit) and The Quilt (Lihaaf) are two of her works that are especially notable because of the uncompromising depiction of gender relations, sexuality, and the restrictive institutions that control the lives of women in Indian culture. Chughtai is a significant figure in the field of feminist fiction due to the fact that her stories are characterized by a high degree of realism, humor, and a profound empathy for the characters she creates.

In the context of traditional Indian settings, Chauthi ka Joda explores the cultural constraints and expectations that are associated with marriage. One of the main characters in the novel is a young girl called Kubra, who is being set up to marry a guy who is much older than she is and doesn't even acknowledge her existence. When it comes to the obligations and restrictions that are placed on women as a result of the institution of marriage, the bridal suit, also known as the Chauthi ka Joda, becomes a potent symbol. Through the use of this tale, Chughtai offers a criticism of the patriarchal system, which places a higher value on societal conventions and outward appearances than it does on the individualized happiness and independence of women. The emotional and psychological toll that forced marriages have on many women is brought to light by Chughtai via the stories of Kubra, her mother and her sister. She also underlines the silent suffering that many women go through.

The Quilt (Lihaaf), which is considered to be Chughtai's most controversial and acclaimed work, aggressively discusses topics such as the sexuality of women and the subjugation of women in the home. The narrative is told from the point of view of a little girl who is a witness to the development of a secret connection between her aunt, Begum Jan, and Rabbu, the maid who works for Begum Jan. The lihaaf, also

known as the quilt, is a metaphor for the portions of women's life that are kept secret and considered forbidden. A great amount of controversy was sparked as a result of Chughtai's depiction of same-sex desire, which was both pioneering and controversial. It challenged the traditional mores that were prevalent throughout her time period. The story's straightforward portrayal of sexual inhibition and the longing for closeness highlights the overarching topic of women's search for individuality and fulfilment that goes beyond what is expected of them by society. The novels *Chauthi ka Joda* and *The Quilt* are both considered to be significant works because they shed light on the complexity of gender relations and the many types of abuse, both physical and psychological, that women are subjected to. Chughtai's writings are defined by their storytelling style, which combines humor, sarcasm, and a sharp reality to attack the cultural systems that perpetuate gender inequality. Chughtai seeks to challenge the status quo of gender inequality. Her characters, who are often trapped between tradition and modernity, are a representation of the challenges and inner conflicts that women face while attempting to navigate a patriarchal culture. Furthermore, Chughtai's writings serve as a potent social commentary on the need of gender reform and the liberation of women, which is a significant addition to the field of literature that extends beyond her ability to weave stories. Chughtai invites readers to reassess their conceptions of gender and to campaign for a society that is more equal and just by giving voice to the stories of women who have been marginalised and silenced. Both *Chauthi ka Joda* and *The Quilt*, written by Ismat Chughtai, play a significant role in the investigation of gender violence and the rules accepted by society. The author Chughtai examines topics like as marriage, sexuality, and self-discovery via the use of her colourful characters and strong tales. She also challenges the patriarchal systems that are responsible for the confinement of women. The deep insights that her works provide into the everyday lives of women and the ongoing fight for gender equality continue to engage modern audiences. Her works continue to connect with contemporary audiences. As a pioneering feminist writer, Chughtai's legacy continues to have an impact, and it continues to inspire continuous conversation on issues pertaining to women's rights and social justice.

- **Shashi Deshpande's That Long Silence**

Shashi Deshpande's novel "That Long Silence" is a profound exploration of the psychological and external conflicts women face in their pursuit of identity and autonomy. The protagonist, Jaya, undergoes a voyage of introspection to expose the quiet pain and bravery that many women go through in their pursuit of self-awareness and empowerment. The book, published in 1988 and awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award, is renowned for its thorough investigation of gender dynamics, identity, and the process of self-discovery.

The story revolves around the life of Jaya, a middle-aged woman who is compelled to face the voices that have been repressed and the facts that have been kept hidden from her view throughout her life. After her husband Mohan gets involved in a professional controversy, Jaya moves to a modest flat in Bombay, where she engages in self-reflection and makes progress towards gaining a better understanding of herself. She begins to break the lengthy silence that has characterized both her marriage and her identity as she focuses on her life and attempts to untangle it.

Deshpande's exploration of patriarchal mechanisms that restrict women to the conventional roles of wife and mother is one of the most important issues explored in *That Long Silence*. Jaya has been socialized to place the requirements of her family ahead of her own goals and objectives, which prevents her from pursuing her education or aspirations of becoming a writer. Deshpande's tale challenges this traditional norm, encouraging women to discover their voices and establish their identities more strongly.

The concept of silence is used often throughout the book, representing the anxieties, wants, and frustrations that women choose to keep to themselves. This silence not only represents her personal hardships but also represents the collective experience of many women who are denied the ability to express their truths. Deshpande's work is notable for its deep character development and realistic portrayal of life in the middle class of India.

That Long Silence is an insightful and profound investigation into gender, identity, and the process of self-discovery, sheds light on the widespread influence of patriarchal standards on women's lives and the quiet struggles they go through the character of Jaya. The book continues to be a profound and timely statement on the need to ensure that women's voices are heard and their experiences are valued worldwide.

- **Behind the Closed Doors: Domestic Violence in India**

Behind Closed Doors: Domestic abuse in India provides an in-depth analysis of domestic abuse in Indian families, in addition to these literary pieces. The structural obstacles to resolving domestic violence, as well as the cultural and economic variables that uphold it, are shown by this critical book. Through the use of evidence-based arguments and first-hand accounts from survivors, the work stresses the critical need of comprehensive programs that help victims of domestic abuse overcome their trauma and regain control of their lives. The study seeks to show, using story analysis, that gender violence is a major social, economic, and political issue that impacts more than just private spheres. Gender violence, the speakers will say, necessitates a multi-faceted strategy that takes into account cultural, socioeconomic, and legal factors. The study's overarching goal is to promote policies that address the root causes of gender violence and lessen its far-reaching effects by providing a more comprehensive discussion of the topic.

Conclusion

The pervasive problem of gender violence in India, which includes acts of domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and social discrimination, affects not just individuals but also the country's economy, politics, and society at large. There has to be a dramatic change in how we think about and deal with gender violence since this study presents it as a non-traditional security risk. By analyzing literary tales such as *Parde ke Peeche* by Rashid Jahan, *Chauthi ka Joda* and *The Quilt* by Ismat Chughtai, and *That Long Silence* by Shashi Deshpande, this research highlights how literature may shed light on women's lived experiences. The stories here shed light on the social and cultural factors that contribute to the cycle of gender violence and show how strong and independent women are when confronted with institutionalized oppression. *Parde ke Peeche*, written by Rashid Jahan, challenges social conventions and calls for women's liberation by exposing the repressive home circumstances in which women are trapped. *Chauthi ka Joda* and *The Quilt*, two of Ismat

Chughtai's works, challenge patriarchal norms by discussing marriage and women's sexuality. That Long Silence, by Shashi Deshpande, explores women's inner problems and stresses the significance of self-awareness and the bravery to question social limitations. An in-depth analysis of domestic abuse is presented in Behind Closed Doors: Domestic abuse in India, a critical study. The book draws on factual information and victim stories to demonstrate how widespread this problem is. Legal changes, cultural shifts, and socioeconomic interventions are all necessary parts of a comprehensive strategy to stop female violence, according to the results of these tales. Additionally, this study highlights how critical it is to include gender viewpoints into security frameworks. The field of security studies may broaden its attention to include human security, which is concerned with the protection of persons, by acknowledging gender violence as an unconventional security problem. This perspective recognizes that safeguarding and empowering women are inextricably tied to the stability and development of society. Policies that tackle inequity at its source and provide survivors complete assistance are critical in the fight against gender violence. A cultural movement towards gender equality may be fostered, as can the promotion of gender-sensitive education and the strengthening of legislative safeguards. Furthermore, ending the cycle of violence and creating a more equal society may be achieved by empowering women via economic opportunity and political involvement. Delving into literary tales about gender violence not only helps us understand the problem better, but it also highlights the need of taking a comprehensive and inclusive approach to security.

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