

BOSSY WOMAN IN GARIMA PRADHAN'S A GIRL THAT HAD TO BE STRONG

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ABSTRACT

The main aspect of my paper focuses towards the obstacles everyday faced by the women in the present modern-era society. In the novel *A Girl That Had To Be Strong* by Garima Pradhan, let's us to engage in a different perspective of living a peaceful life. The idea of fulfilling women's dream-career is not an easy task when compared to the issues faced by the men. The title of the paper is *Bossy Woman in A Girl That Had To Be Strong* by Garima Pradhan, opens up with the dignified and smart character Advika, who is born with the Hindu belief astrology predictions of *manglik dosh*, which brings negative impact possibilities in future. She is ready to face the barriers and miracles which she has to undergo in her everyday life. The occurrence of this problematic condition has also been faced by many women which gradually weighed down by the clutter in their lives. The subjectivity of this paper targets on the central character Advika, whose dreams is to clear the CIA (Certified Internal Auditor) exams but frequently gets tangled in struggles with family circumstances, friends and love relationship. In this predominant ill-treated society, she motivates herself with the support of her family to face all her nightmares. Will Advika change herself to accept the society? This novel also grasps the attention of many other women to have a unique personality and tends not to stop their efforts but instead, they can make themselves strong by overcoming failures to change the world.

It was ninth of September 1992, the last day of Ganesh Chaturdashi, formally known as “Ananth Chaturdashi.” On this day, roads were heavily crowded with people holding Ganesha’s idol for Ganesh Visarjan. It was a capturing moment as the aura of Ganesha is power pact in itself that it filled people with so much energy and enthusiasm that people from all age group were singing in one voice- “Ganapti Bappa Moreya, Mangal Murti Moreya” (Pradhan 1).

‘Ganesh Chaturthi’ is an auspicious Hindu festival which is celebrated all over India honouring the birth of Lord Ganesha. This celebration was seen in a wide-range of crowd for the first time in Bhopal. Mrs. Salila and Mr. Aadarsh are expecting a baby soon. When the day comes, they both were blessed with a girl baby. She was born out by the caesarean section which was not that successful during the ninety’s. Everyone where overwhelmed in inviting the new born brave girl in their home, which resembled their cast trait ‘Kayastha.’ “Kayastha community has an inborn fighter trait in them. They always stand up for right things in life, as they can’t sit calmly about any injustice caused to anyone, but it’s a quality which can be developed in oneself over a period of time by feeling for others pain too, which was a rare thing now” (Pradhan 3).

CJMR

ISSN: 3048-5819

CUTE JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The family has a certain trait that the new born baby is not aware of. The trait is that, they do believe in astrology. On the day of name ritual ceremony, Pandit Anand discovered that the baby has kundli by considering her date of birth and she would hold a unique personality when she grows up and also named her ‘Advika’ which means- unique. She looks very beautiful and the reason behind it is she has Mangal dosh in her horoscope. Her father Mr. Aadharsh supported her a lot and ready to take up the responsibilities that every daughter needs where some of the parents gives importance only to the male child.

Indian society is multicultural and patriarchal, where a particular gender identity operates in a hierarchy along with other socio-cultural identities. In a male-dominated society, the male gender exercises more power and authority in comparison to females and transgender. Women in patriarchal societies are often perceived as second-class citizens, and in the same hierarchy, transgender people are perceived as third-class citizens or non-citizens (Sahu 13).

After two years, Myra is born as the youngest sister of Advika. They both were happy together and Advika protected her sister whenever she faces danger. Now Advika entered into her pre-school attaining the age of 4 years from MAC School. She had a small circle of friends and ranked among top-3 rankers of school and always stood 1st in class. Soon when some years passed by, during her middle-school her parents joined her in JSCS School which is one of the famous school in Bhopal. Advika missed her friends badly. She could not score high marks because of the English medium instruction. However with the encouragement from her parents, Advika managed to continue her schooling in JSCS only by securing average marks and executed her inner talents that included sketching, painting, poetry and writing skills. Her class teacher complimented her for her better performance and for her decent and disciplined behavior in school.

After a decade, Advika has completed her 10th grade with good percentage and gradually joined 11th grade in Commerce stream, but her parents insisted her to take up engineering or biology. Progressively she has completed her schooling, now it is her time to get admission in the colleges. It was the tough time to prepare for the competitive exams to qualify for good stream and take admissions into college. Advika has a keen interest in becoming a Chartered Accountant and was preparing for her CA- CPT (Common Proficiency

Test) exam conducted by ICAI (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India), where 100% of attendance is compulsory so she has joined APJ College which is under private institution where attendance is not an issue.

Advika started to focus on her entrance CPT exam, which is not a joke and she aim's to clear the CA exam is one of her dream-goal. Her parents were well in level of the reality and motivates her to concentrate on her career till she achieves it. Advika becomes dedicated, hard-working and also sacrificed over her sleep and preparing for her upcoming entrance CA exam. On the result day, Advika was in unbearable condition and got failed in her CPT exam and was short of 30 marks. She cried and hated herself for not making her parents proud. She is consoled by her sister Myra.

“You are a fighter Advika; you will do it next time for sure.” Just believe in yourself, you will do it. Advika wiped off her tears and made her vision clear for the next fight. She cannot afford to fail this time else, she will no longer continue this as her career path. Advika was a person who was good at lifting up others by motivating them but when it came to herself, she was helpless” (Pradhan 31).

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Advika at first felt sad and disappointed but could not tolerate her failure. She usually boost up the confidence level of others when they are upset or faced failure. But when the same situation arises for Advika, she becomes helpless. “Only a CA student knows the “Pain of being failed in CA exams after giving their 100% efforts.” It pains more than an injury. If you actually want to taste the real meaning of failure, give CA exams once in your lifetime” (Pradhan 32).

Advika did not give up and did hard work regularly. She attempted her next CA entrance level exam and on the day of the result, she felt a minor heart attack when the page displayed her pass, displaying her marks 130/200. “On seeing her efforts pay off this time she could not control herself from bursting out in tears of success” (Pradhan 33). Advika is now qualified for CA-IPCC with a batch of 200 students who all had the same dream in common to be a CA. Now Advika is back to her APJ College to write her first semester B. Com exam. Sabir, one of her classmate is a very close and verbatim brother to Advika helps her to sort out all the problems. Soon Advika encounters another classmate Danish. He usually underestimate girls a lot. He thought girls lack brains, on hearing this Advika angrily stares at him. This is where Advika first gets into the tangle of male domination. “Danish believed only men are born powerful. Forgetting the fact, there are many successful women’s in the Forbes list, popular for their brain, money, and position in society. To wipe off this sick mentality of men- Advika was on revolt to fight for every girl like her who had brains. Advika proved him wrong by her actions which shattered his ego” (Pradhan 45).

Soon Advika and Danish slightly started to like each other. But Advika did not like the character of Danish as he always disrespects women. Danish started observing the likes and dislikes of Advika and made it appear as his likes and dislikes too. But Advika always looked for a person who respected girls more than her looks. Danish decided to gift Advika a teddy bear and chocolate because it is especially considered as the weakness of many girls. So he thought to take one for Advika to impress her.

Advika too blushed at Danish but controlled her feelings inside and rejected the gifts from Danish. As she is so much conscious in fulfilling her dream career, clearing the CA exam. Danish approached Advika friends Sabir, Sagun, Sachi in wooing her. Few days

passed where Advika was severely ill and was unable to come to the college. Danish felt really upset and he missed Advika badly. Even she too missed Danish. Once when she got recovered from her illness she came back to college in a complete celebrity appearance. She was wearing pink kurta with black jeans with watch and shoes. She looked stunning that day. Everyone in the class admired her. Danish was very much excited in seeing Advika and proposed her. She too accepted Danish. The love-blossom cherished between them.

Danish and Advika were now officially couples. They spent some lovely days together. When the days began to pass by, Advika noticed some desperate changes in Danish's behavior. "Danish started to expect changes from Advika and told her to dress up like a chick to coaching. Danish made Advika doubt her own beauty" (Pradhan 56). Advika strongly disapproved the conditional statements of Danish. Slowly the arguments began to start in their love relationship. Advika confessed to Danish that they both come to coaching for becoming CA, not a model. Furthermore as the days passed, Danish asked Advika to drink and smoke with him. But she is not interested in these kinds of activities as it brings bad name and bad reputation. And she also has her own ethics and principles to be followed. Later after some days it is proven that Danish did not love Advika truly because he just wants to prove that male power is higher than female. He strongly affirms that women are weaker sex. On realizing the true identity of Danish, Advika's true love on him seems blocked and felt heart-bursting pain. "Love is Blind They Say, She Completely Trusted Him And He Brought Her Closer To The Grave He Dig To Bury Her Heart." "Only fault of Advika was she trusted him blindly and loved him unconditionally. Advika could not forgive herself for loving a wrong person...She strongly refused him and removed him from her life forever" (Pradhan 63).

Advika decided to focus back on her career especially clearing her CA exams. She was admitted to a college for her post-graduation course in Finance at SVIM, a government college in Bhopal. On the result day, she got failed in first group but she passed in group-2 of IPC with an exemption in Audit. She got placed in ETP Pvt. Ltd through placement cell in the college. On the first day of joining as a fresher, her Boss Kapil introduced Advika to her team with a group of six members. She was asked to attend training session for one week which will be given by her team members itself. As the days passed, Advika's team mates observed her grow and learn faster, which was becoming a roadblock for their bright future, especially for other team mates. "Advika was observing a change in their behavior, as she was new, she needed their help. However, they refused to help her and even mistreated her sometimes" (Pradhan 89).

Advika understood the environmental scenario of that company, and had self-respect. So she did not ask for help nor prefer taking favors from others. Gradually day by day, she was given more work and sending her late home. Many male team mates started to use Advika in completing their works. She was sent back home very late at 9.00 P.M which is not safe for the women. Her parents were also too worried about her coming home late. She resigned her job to get peace in her heart. She could not withstand the male dominant society. "Relatives pressurize Manglik girls to get married in their family so that she does not turn up to become a competitor for their kinds of same age group. It feels like if they will not settle now, no boy will be left for marriage as if, all boys were dying together tomorrow" (Pradhan 131). Advika is now focusing on her future and so getting married is the last option in her life. She has undergone depression by getting cheated by a boy and mentally harassment in her work place. Soon Advika discovered a writer in her and found herself at peace when she used to pour out her heart through writing. She took writing as her career and future. She

used to write personalized birthday messages for her friends but now she started to write to show the world her writing techniques.

Advika wished to start an NGO by winning readers hearts with her writing skills. She has choosed writing as her passion, which she wanted to use for bringing a change in mindset of society. “Every parent wishes to see their kids successful but before tasting success they have to face hardships and failure” (Pradhan 135). She eventually wrote poems of kids demanding to their parents which has become the highlight of newspaper which focused on her writing style. “Advika thanked Ganesha for making her reach the pinnacle of her life. Still next goals were now in her line. Finally she had to grow stronger from the things she went through” (Pradhan 139).

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