

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN MONA LISA SMILE MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to describe women's empowerment in Mona Lisa Smile Movie Script. This research is a qualitative research because the data in the form of words. In analyzing the data will be used, Napikoski's feminist literary theory. The data were collected from the main source of the movie script itself in this case Mona Lisa Smile Movie Script, and the secondary sources were several books, journals, web pages and other references used to support this research. The results showed that empowering women on these days are important. The movie reflects the women conditions at the time that still hold the tradition controlled by patriarchal where gender roles dictated that men were the head of the household and the sole provider, while women were expected to be the homemaker who cared for the family. Being a mother and a wife were viewed as women's most critical callings. Katherine made the students realize that they had rights to show up their capability in public as men had. Katherine caused her understudies to accept that they could complete two things in a similar time; having family and their goal as well. Empowering women is the key to political stability, economic growth and social transformation.

Keywords: *Women, Empowerment, Gender Roles, Patriarchy*

INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment is giving women real power or authority to carry out tasks (Rorintulus et al, 2022). Women will actually want to participate in planning and dynamic errands and add to personal development activities if they are allowed. Women's empowerment actually focuses on the fact that women have the power to make decisions, move forward, and ultimately continue with their lives, both individually and as a whole. According to Jain Aparna (Jain, 2018) Women's empowerment implies that women are allowed to go with and own their decisions. They are not limited by adjusting to what society, customs, convention or people

feel, however determined by what every woman in this world characterizes for herself at each phase of her life.

Women have been uniquely viewed as a creative source of human life in the early times (Rorintulus et al, 2022). All human beings are born of women (Maru, 2014). The existence of both men and women surely comes from the womb of a mother. The history of human being in this world, hence, cannot be separated from the presence of women in a society. The woman existence and their interaction with men as other part of society define the existence and continuation of society (Maru, 2014). Historically, but they have been viewed as mentally substandard compared to men as well as a significant wellspring of allurements and wickedness. Women challenged the stereotypes and institutions that determined their expectations and role in life, especially the notion of women's place "in the home" (Lolowang, 2010).

The researcher used feminist literary theory to describe the perceives that literature both reflects and shapes generalizations and other social presumptions. As stated by (Napikoski, 2020) a feminist literary critic resists traditional assumptions while reading a text, in addition to challenging assumptions which were thought to be universal, feminist literary criticism actively supports including women's knowledge in literature and valuing women's experiences. Continues to today's world, there has been a steady increase in women's empowerment. To overcome this situation and to have an independent role in society, women's empowerment is needed. Empowering women is such an interesting idea in this movie, and that is the reason why the researcher interests to analyze this idea to do the research with the title "Women's Empowerment in Mona Lisa Smile Movie Script".

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer uses qualitative research. Qualitative research are descriptive data, and it is in the form of word or picture (Bogdan & Biklen, 2007). As stated by (Creswell, 2009) a qualitative research is a study to investigate and understand the meaning individuals or groups assume to be a social or a human problem. It is an exploration where the approach to gathering information taken from different written works. Literary works implied here are the films, yet in

addition materials taken from diary, magazines, papers, web, and so on. The research design in this study can be described as an arrangement condition for collecting and analysing data which are taken from "Mona Lisa Smile" movie. The writer analysed woman's empowerment. It could be described that woman's empowerment was belong to intrinsic the element of the movie.

There are some methods of approaches that can be use in analyzing a movie. In this research the writer uses feminist literary theory approach to analyze this movie. The writer utilizes this theory is on the grounds that it discusses the liberal women's liberation that looks for the right correspondence in public activity, however by and by that can be implied balance, at a few of stages, with men. Furthermore, the condition in that film additionally suitable with the state of the American women in 1953 who look for the privileges in education, employment, and family too. From this theory researchers could explain whether there are several steps in conducting data analysis: 1) analyzing the women's empowerment in Mona Lisa Smile Movie Script 2) analyzing the struggle of the main character of empowering women 3) analyzing how important it is to empower women 4) discuss the findings 5) making conclusions from the result.

Research site in this study was a movie entitled "Mona Lisa Smile" movie in the form of soft file that was downloaded in youtube named Mona Lisa Smile Movie (2013) <https://www.youtube.com/watch>. Its length is 1 hour 59 minutes. And there are some procedures which used in this study to analyze the data: a) watching the movie to comprehend the story of the movie b) reading and observing the dialogue from the movie's script c) finding about how women's empowerment in this movie works d) writing the theories and all about women's empowerment in this movie.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Empowering women is to give women the right. woman can have equivalent right to partake in economically, politically, society and education (Doeung, 2018). Empowerment is all about power; changing power relations for the people who recently practiced little control over their own lives (Batliwala, 1993).

Women's Empowerment through Education

Education as means of empowerment of women can bring about a positive attitudinal change (Tiwari Sunita, 2018). Education spreads mindfulness among individuals for their privileges and uniformity. Education attempts to decrease the imbalance in the general public among people and attempts to work on the situation with people in the general public in a legitimate manner. Education performed major role to improve the condition of women and made them aware for the rights of women all over the world (Tiwari Sunita, 2018). Education is the key of women's empowerment (Knutsen, 2021). Education is the basic right for everyone and when we say everyone we should not forget that women are also a part of this lot (Vashisht, 2019). Education is so important for women. With education, women are expected to have an awareness of their future. Women who have higher education tend not to depend on men. Especially in today's era, women are required to be more independent in carrying out all their activities. Educating women saves lives and builds stronger families, communities and economies. An educated woman populace builds a nation's efficiency and powers monetary development.

Katherine: And I got to go graduate school

Connie: UCLA, right? (Newell et al., 2004)

Katherine Watson expressed in the conversation her desire to continue her education and become an educated woman. It was demonstrated when she continued her education and attended UCLA's graduate school. Not only was Katherine an educated woman, but she was also aware of the importance of education, particularly for women. Her desire to become a teacher at Wellesley College also demonstrated her concern for education. Betty : What is that?

Katherine : You tell me. Carcass by Soutine

Susan : It's not on the syllabus.

Katherine : No, it's not. Is it any good? Come on ladies. There's no wrong answer. There's also no textbook telling you what to think. It's not that easy, is it? (Newell et al., 2004)

From the dialogue above, we can see that Katherine uses the new materials to teach her students. She has prepared teaching materials on art outside the syllabus or in textbooks, such as those in the dialogue "Carcass by Soutine". She really wants to introduce about art by teaching his own way. Besides, she encourages her students to tell what they think about the art and make a new perspective. Here it is clear that, Katherine wants her students to be able to think critically. That education is not only learning through what has been provided, but to make us think critically about whatever we face. This is one way that women are not easily fooled by anyone.

Many think that women are not obliged to get a higher education like men. Women are often seen as just being at home, being housewives, while men are considered the head of the household and those who work to earn a living, so they must have a high level of education. This kind of perception can ultimately discourage women who want to continue their higher education. However, gender should not be a limitation for a person to achieve the highest education, because both men and women have the same rights. In addition to gender, age is also not a barrier for someone to get an education, as long as they have a strong determination.

Higher education is also one way for women to save themselves. One is to prevent women from marrying too young. With education, women are expected to have an awareness of their future. Women who have higher education tend not to depend on men. Especially in today's era, women are required to be more independent in carrying out all their activities. Women who are highly educated will get a lot of benefits in their lives. These benefits include, an educated woman will give birth to intelligent children, she also tends to be smarter in dealing with all forms of crime, is more confident, can protect herself from promiscuity, reduces poverty, and is able to provide the best for her family, especially husband and children.

Women can go to college just like men can. They can choose the higher level of education, finish their classes, learn about the field, and review anything they want. Women furthermore can join the politically as they have right to project a

polling form and do a couple of practices in political. Through instruction, this strengthening plays a crucial role. Girls who are educated can eventually find significant employment and contribute to their nation's economy. When they have eight years of education, they are also multiple times less likely to get married young, indicating that they and their families are better off.

Women's Empowerment through Sense of Self-Worth

Self-worth is a self-evaluative emotional reaction. It is a feeling of confidence in our abilities and qualities (Kabir, 2016). It tends to be hard, however to find our worth and value as women, we need to find it ourselves, not out at the world. Self-esteem will set decides that advise others how to treat you. It will show others what you find in yourself, and what you anticipate from them (Trevizo, 2018).

From the definitions above, the writer sees that how we value ourselves will affects how a person tries to make everything he/she does effective. This is what is called self-worth. With self-worth comes confidence, esteem and personal growth. As has been discussed about how women's lives in America in the 50s, that women at that time considered themselves only to be a good wife and mother. So, they still think that women's self-worth is only limited to that.

Self-worth acknowledges that you are greater than all things or conditions beyond your control. Self-worth is a deep knowledge that you are valuable, lovable, and have an important value in this life. The writer sees that Katherine and her students have different definitions of self-worth. Katherine feels that we have every right to do what we want besides being a wife and mother. but his students thought they were great when it came to just being good mothers and wives.

Betty: Don't disregard our tradition just because you're subversive

Katherine: Don't disrespect this class just because you're married (Newell et al., 2004).

From this conversation the writer sees that Katherine did not give detachment of participation to her students who got hitched. Katherine was exceptionally furious and she attempted to mock the understudies. They expected that Katherine dismiss the standards that laid out by the school that gave detachment of participation to

their student to get hitched. In any case, Katherine's perspective about marriage outrages a portion of her student and this made her look an unconventional, rebellious and a liberal woman. This clearly described the difference of women's self-worth from Katherine and her student, Betty.

Katherine urged her students to complete themselves openly. She felt that women didn't necessarily in all cases need to turn into the generalized women whose spot was at home, however they could be a next pioneer in the event that they needed. Katherine accepted that Wellesley College had the best and most brilliant female students who had the capacity of becoming cutting edge's chiefs.

But Katherine Watson didn't come to Wellesley to fit in.

She came to Wellesley because; she wanted to make a difference (Newell et al., 2004).

From the quote above, the writer sees that Katherine wants to make a change, where the idea that women are considered lower than men, where the patriarchal system is still rampant for people's thoughts at that time. Katherine wants to change the perspective of women at Wellesley College that we women can do whatever we want.

President Carr : I have been getting some calls about your teaching methods Katherine. They are a little unorthodox for Wellesley. We are traditionalist.

Katherine : Yes, I noticed.

President Carr : So if you would like to stay here.

Katherine : Is that a question?

President Carr : More a discussion.

Katherine : About my staying here?

President Carr : You'll have your format review in May. Until then a littl less modern art. Happy holidays. (Newell et al., 2004)

People think that Katherine's approach to educating is unconventional for Wellesley. She demanded to stop the manner in which she educates, for example, give another material past the speaker and give her illustration out of class. She should keep the laid out guidelines there. In this way, they caution Katherine that she could be assuming she keeps on showing the students the manner in which she

educates, she will be fired. Although she gets complaint from boards of Wellesley about her way in teach and she will be fired if she does not follow the established rules. But she stands her idealism to teach the students.

Women's Empowerment through Decision Making

Women participation in decision making is not just a right, but also key to sustainable development (Asuako, 2020). Women are individuals and should be able to decide whom they want to be. It is on the right track to support more women in decision making as they focus on approaches that further develop lives for everybody including quality education, wellbeing, housing and social justice.

In the 50s, as the writer found, the standard of a woman is to be a good wife and mother. There is nothing wrong with living by those social standards. If it is a woman's own decision, but that does not mean all women have to follow it, right? The reality is that from the past, even now, women's decisions are still being dictated and it seems that they are stuck with social constructions. However, we can see in the case of Joan in this Monia Lisa Smile movie script. Joan: It was my choice. Not to go. He would have supported it.

Katherine: But you don't have to choose.

Joan: No, I have to. I want a home, a family. It's not something I'll sacrifice.

Katherine: No one's asking you to sacrifice that, Joan. I just want you to understand that you can do both. And marriage is not becomes obstacle for woman To get education and maybe that education make you become lawyer

Joan: Think I'll wake up one day and regret not being a lawyer?

Katherine: Yes, I'm afraid that you will.

Joan: Not as much as I'd regret not having a family. Not being there to raise them. I know exactly what I'm doing, and it doesn't make me any less smart.

Joan: This must seem terrible to you.

Katherine: I didn't say that.

Joan: Sure you did. You always do. You stand in class and tell us to look beyond the image, But you don't. To you, a housewife is someone who sold her soul for a center hall colonial. She has no depth, no intellect, no interests. You're the one who said, I could do anything I wanted.

Joan: This is what I want.

Katherine: Congratulations. Be happy (Newell et al., 2004).

The conversation above described the decision making from Joan. Joan chose not to go to Yale University since she decides to get hitched and turned into a house-wife. Joan thinks marriage will be the thing that defines her as a woman. It is the decision of Joan, and there is nothing wrong with that. But the decision of Katherine is not wrong as well, that she wants her student to be an educated women and have a higher education. Katherine kept trying to convince Joan to get both education and family. Katherine wanted them to be their ownelves and showed their capability in society. That women can do both, have a higher education and at the same time to be a good wife.

Joan: You stand in class and tell us to look beyond the image, but you don't. To you, a housewife is someone who sold her soul for a center hall Colonial. She has no depth, no intellect, no interest. You're the one who said I could do anything I wanted. This is what I want (Newell et al., 2004).

The statement above described about how Joan's feel. She knew that to turn into a housewife was not likewise a terrible choice. Women's worth couldn't be chosen exclusively from their calling. The significant thing was the choice that they made is what they need, with no impulse from anybody. Betty is one of the students at Wellesley College who used to strongly oppose Katherine's teachings. So that is one reason why it was so difficult for Katherine to teach at Wellesley College. However, it was Betty who finally understood Katherine's teachings to empower women at that time. How women have the right to control themselves, and that marriage is not everything to women.

Betty's mother: Elizabeth, I don't see Spencer. Betty: Excuse me, Mother.

Betty: Miss Watson, can you help me get in touch with your friend...in Greenwich Village?

Katherine: What do you need in Greenwich Village?

Betty: An apartment. I filed for a divorce this morning. And since we know I'm not welcome at your house...

Betty: You remember Giselle Levy? What did you call her? "A New York kike."
That's it.

Well, we're going to be roommates (Newell et al., 2004).

Betty's mind was opened by Katherine to the idea that women had the same rights and opportunities in social life as men, as described in the conversation above. Betty moved into an apartment after deciding to divorce her husband because of his affair. She made the decision to continue her education at Yale University and major in law.

Women's Empowerment through Employment

Women assist with building a rousing work culture by acquiring solid rivalry, cultivating collaboration, holding and in this way assisting the organization with developing to its maximum capacity (Datta, 2017). Women can work outside their home, have a potential open door to decide. Ladies are not relied upon men. They can bring in cash to help their family by dealing with their capacities. As certain ladies are not sure to work in a hard condition or an elevated place since they actually discover that it is not women's work.

Women are still differentiated based on their orientation in some social orders. They do not enjoy the same rights as men. Women are still expected to cook, clean, and save money. They are also still strict about their family and way of life. Because women are unable to go out with men or at night. Some are not entirely settled by their spouse or parents. They accepted that women are more fragile than men and that some spouses get lustful, so they continued to prohibit women from working or studying far from home. Additionally, some women wed at a young age, while others were forced to do so by their parents. The social orders absolutely require women's empowerment. It is so important for women's self-esteem and for social orders.

Katherine is a teacher, in which she is able to show that women can have opportunities to work, and pursue the careers they want. Therefore, she really wants her students at Wellesley College to be open-minded about this, about how women have the right to have opportunities in the world of work.

Katherine: You can do both. Just for fun, if you could go to any law school, which would it be?

Joan: Yale.. Yale

Joan: They keep five slots open for women, one unofficially for a Wellesley Girl

Katherine: But you haven't really thought about it (Newell et al., 2004).

The discussion above portrayed Katherine utilizes that event to urge Joan to apply for a graduate school, something that Joan didn't consider. Katherine attempted to recommend Joan to pursue that open door since she expected that ladies could likewise complete two things simultaneously, such as having an advanced education and marriage.

Because people value and promote women, empowerment helps reduce domestic violence. Sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and physical abuse of women are not common. These day women are accomplishing significant level occupation similarly as. A few women are elevated to turn into a president, pioneer, head of cooperative and other significant level positions. What's more there are numerous ladies currently are taking an interest in society, education, politic and economic.

Women should be able to make home as the final destination of the husbands after the exhausted day in business (Maru, 2014). The choice of women to keep working does not mean forgetting the family. When the cost of living continues to increase, women can help their husbands to support the family. In addition, women can also buy the things they want without bothering their husband's finances. However, despite being a career woman, a woman should not necessarily ignore her family. Especially when a woman has children, children are still the responsibility that must be considered properly. It is not easy, but that does not mean it cannot be done. Everyone has challenges, the obstacle is deciding to face the challenge or give up.

The well-being and social advancement of families, networks, and nations depend on women's empowerment. Women can reach their highest potential when they live secure, fulfilled, and valuable lives. Putting their skills to use in the workforce and being able to raise happier and better children. Additionally, they are

willing to assist in empowering acceptable economies for the benefit of social systems and humanity as a whole.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the research, it can be concluded that it is true, women's empowerment is so important. The fact that, women are often considered weak, have limitations and cannot do greater things by society in the *Mona Lisa Smile* movie script, actually made Katherine even more enthusiastic in empowering women at that time. Women's most important occupations were considered to be motherhood and marriage. The main character, Katherine Watson, did not represent any of them. She attempted to alter it.

Additionally, the circumstances in which women in that era still adhere to patriarchal traditions are depicted in this film. Women were thought to play the most important roles, including being a wife and mother. However, Katherine was incredibly determined to defy tradition. She survives at Wellesley College thanks to her optimism about changing the students' perspectives.

Finally, empowering women through education, building self-worth, having a chance to employment, and also having a chance to a decision making made women realize how big women are. They can do anything they want, without controlled by any society.

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