

## Women Emancipation in Mulk Raj Anand's the Old Women and the Cow or Gauri

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### Abstract

This paper focuses on agonize, marital violence and emancipation of women. Mulk Raj Anand was an Indian writer in English. Mulk Raj Anand's most works themes are suppression and affinities of human beings. In his work "The old women and the cow or Gauri" he describe about a women, Gauri who was suffered in the hands of her husband and her mother in law. She was ill-treated and oppressed in the beginning of the novel but at the end of the play she was transformed. She got a victorious against her suppression. Women have been socialized to accept the oppressive structures and customs and have internalised their sufferings and misery. They are not even aware of their subordinate status and discriminatory treatment. Women, in our society is still tortured by male society, which are undisclosed. But women are now days getting freedom and leading a good life.

**KEYWORDS:**agonize, marital violence, suppression and emancipation.

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### Introduction:

This paper focus on agonize, marital violence and emancipation of women. Patriarchy socialises men to assume a higher status than women so as to subordinate women, as is evident in most cultures. It is an institutionalised system of male dominance and variety or forms like domestic abuse, rape and female circumcision. The issues of violence against women are an issue that transcends all borders and religion. Marital violence is a form of power and control exercised over women within the institution of marriage. The saddest reality is that the victim who had tolerated all these abuses as a virtue of an Indian women was ultimately. The man who batters also has violent family background and feels insecure, frustrated and concerned about his masculinity. Beating his wife is seen as proofs of his virility. Women do not have security to life and liberty. She is a victim of violence, sexual harassment, rape and psychological torture all over the world. Violence against women in the family occurs in developed and developing countries alike. Every religious tradition and culture encourages marriage as a responsible adult act but it become crucial for many women due to male dominance. Now a days many women fight for their liberty. Mulk Raj Anand's "The old women and the cow or Gauri" portrays

such kind of women who was suppressed by her husband and her mother in law. Finally she transformed and protested against her suppression and get emancipation.

### **Critical analysis:**

Mulk Raj Anand was an eminent Indian writer in English. MulkRaj Anand's works are the outcome of a family tragedy and the suppression and human affinities of society. He is an award winning writer in English. In his work "The old women and the cow or Gauri" he describes about the woman Gauri she was very innocent and gentle as a cow. She is the woman protagonist of the novel; she was ill-treated by her husband and mother-in-law. Gauri was kicked and beaten by her husband in the morning and calmed by him in night. Gauri's husband Panchi wants her to submit herself to him without any protest. Only thing she has to do is to clean, cook, please him and should accept the physical violence caused by him. It shows the male chauvinism of Panchi. Gauri lost her mother and father early in life. The suffering which was caused by mother-in-law Kesaro made her to think about their parents and feels about herself and cries. She lost her parents in early age she expects that love from her husband but it was not gained by her only she had physical and mental torture. Kesaro hates Gauri from she entered into her house as a wife of Panchi because she is feared and feels jealousy of her. Kesaro and the village is believed in superstition. She said that Gauri is an unlucky girl which causes trouble for him. When Kesaro visits Panchi after the arrival of Gauri from Hoshiarpur but he didn't allow her to come in. So she spread the news of arrival of prostitute from Hoshiarpur. Panchi started to suspect her and ask her "what is the proof of our purity?" which was not tolerated by Gauri. She was abused and oppressed by him. At first Panchi doesn't believe in superstition but his mother Kesaro poisoned his mind. He started to believe the superstition and Gauri as an unlucky girl as told by his mother. Gauri was oppressed and struggled by Panchi but she is an affectionate wife to him and when he was in need of money she gave her ear rings to him. Panchi with superstition believes send Gauri out of the house. Gauri becomes the victim of Panchi's superstitious beliefs. She wants to go to her maternal home there also her uncle and Amru says that she is an unlucky girl cause trouble for all. Kesaro and his wife Rakhi continuously poisoned Panchi's mind that Gauri had a sexual relationship with Rajguru. Panchi's suspicions grow stronger and stronger. Gauri begs him and falls at his feet and asks him to re-join with her but he rejects her. Gauri is compelled to leave her husband's house and move to her maternal home against her wish. Women are become the object for men's sexual desire and lust. Women are subjected by sexual torture by men. Like that Gauri is chased by men to satisfy their desire. Sethji Ramdas attempts to win Gauri by courtship but it was ended in utter failure. Gauri had a job as a nurse in the clinic of Colonel Mahindra. That nurse's home creates a turning point in her life but there also she is subjected to Dr. Batra's lustful desire on her. At first he raises a voice for Gauri and saves her from Sethji Ramdas but he was acting as a gentle person to her to win. The society is full of such men who want to dominate women and to abuse her physically. Panchi at first does not doubt Gauri for the rumours that Gauri had an affair with Rajguru. It is Kesaro and Rakhi who changed his mind. Panchi doesn't really love Gauri if he really loves her he won't suspect her. The final statement of her was that "they are telling me that Ram turned out Sita because everyone doubted her chastity during her stay with Ravana and I am not a Sita that earth will open up and swallow me I shall just go out and be forgotten of him". At first she is an obedient

wife but ill- treatment and struggle made her to change her mind and her strong determination make her to attain emancipation for all her sufferings. This paper is concludes that in Indian many women are suffered and oppressed by their husband. Gauri move towards to modernity to get an emancipation of her struggles. Many middle class women's are confused between tradition and modernity but Gauri come over from her struggles.

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