

# Vehemence Against Women in Nadia Hashimi's *A House without Windows*

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**Abstract-** *Women encounter many problems starting from domestication to societal. Similar insight is highlighted in Nadia Hashimi's A House Without Windows. Even then it is the 21st century, male dominance is quite common across the world. Nadia Hashimi's A House Without Windows evokes the patriarchy of society, which explains women's suppression, lack of liberation and so on. Nadia Hashimi was born on December 12,1977 in Queens, New York to Afghan parents. Her writing mostly talks about Afghanistan, Afghan culture and traditions. She belongs to America her parents immigrated to U.S in early 70's. Her writing mostly based on conflict, poverty, forced migration, misogyny, colonialism and addiction. This paper throws light on the concept that independence must be given to women and save women from violence and ill treatment therefore, women may contribute to the prosperity of the country as well as to their own progression.*

**Indexed Terms-** *A House Without Windows, Freedom, Inequality, Relationship, Suppression*

## I. INTRODUCTION

*A House Without Windows* talks about the fate of women and girls, particularly about Afghan women. There are so many writers who talk about Afghan women, but Nadia Hashimi describes women's struggles through characters like Zeba, Mezghan, Nafisa, Latifa and other female characters. Afghan culture is the most brutal, with everything against women. This kind of culture reveals the violence against women. Zeba is the protagonist of the novel. She is a loyal wife and kind mother.

Zeba's husband, Kamal is totally different from her, as he does not take any responsibility of his family. He was always spotted drunk in the town. She begs him

to consider their family's reputation, but he does not listen to her words. Kamal often beats her, and he yells at the children to keep out of his way. Through this character, Hashimi describes how patriarchy emerges from one's individual house that:

"The message, the rain and the divine light comes through my window  
Falling into my house from my origins  
Hell is that house without a window "  
-RUMI, MASNAVI ,2403-2406

The above line describes the derivation of the novel title "A House Without Windows is like hell," which reveals the darkness of the house. Zeba's mother, Gulnaz, protests her daughter's marriage, ; she begs her father because she is young and it is a bad time for her, but no one listens to her, and the decision that men take is final. "Marriage was a sport. one point for love, one point for hate."(73) The above line shows that according to Zeba, marriage only means to hate. The marriage does transform a woman and for Zeba it crushes her happiness.

Latifa, who is twenty- four years old with a deep voice. Her family does not treat her as a child. She is often beaten and crucified by her family members, so she plans to escape from the brutal house with her fifteen- years- old sister. At a checkpoint, the police traces down her family and decides she could be charged with kidnapping and running away from home. Nadia Hashimi clearly demonstrates that gender inequality plays a major role in Latifa's case, while freedom of speech is not given to the defence at her trial. "Latifa had no interest in leaving Chil Mahtab, a place where she was treated better than she'd ever been treated in her life."(45) Latifa States that she is like someone who lives in prison while outside she is oppressed by society in the above line.

Nafisa, who is in her mid-thirties, is accused by a relative of having an improper relationship with a man, a widower who worked as a blacksmith, but it is a platonic friendship to Nafisa. Her brother planned to spill Nafisa's blood to restore their family's honour, so Nafisa's mother, to rescue her daughter, decided to report Nafisa's crime to police and turn her in. Because of the male dominance, Nafisa's mother suppressed her and sent her daughter to prison. "Men treasure their manhood as God's greatest gift. Because without it, justice is brutal and Swift." (198)

The above statement reveals that manhood gives everything, especially if they are named as men automatically, and that justice belongs to them. Bibi Shireen is an elder woman who is in jail for the crime committed by her son who was eloping with his girlfriend. The girl's brother found them and killed him. They also locked his mother up for three years; she has to live in prison for twenty-seven more years, and they also searched Bibi's daughter to be married to one of the killers in retribution. Men manipulate women for their mistakes, which ruin Bibi's life in prison and also her daughter's life.

The next story strand delineates the life of the young mother who resides with her cousin. There the cousin is trying to seduce her and also threatens her. She is in a position not to file this threatening against her cousin because the police would definitely ask her to protect herself first. For not protecting herself from the cousin she has been imprisoned. The rudimentary idea from this incident is woman has to protect herself in all the difficult situations that scare her.

This paper reveals that violence against women takes different forms, like physical violence, rape, and inequalities. Inequality plays a major role in this novel, where women are treated brutally because of manhood. The violence against women does not only affect one individual; it also affects their family, children, and society. The mutual understanding between husband and wife, man and woman, which protects violence and also brings peace to one's house. "A *House Without Window* is like a house without the existence's women character in the novel. Frequently mistreated, sexually abused, and women exploitation because they believe that they are inferior to men. They are not permitted to become involved in the

men's private chores. A healthy home can be created and built by the husband and wife, which can result in the emergence of a wealthy society. This paper reveals that one cannot create a community without the involvement of women. This paper also suggests that women should be treated with respect and humanist principles.

#### REFERENCES

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