



Editorial :

Stand Up - Speak Up

Italo Calvino once said, "A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say." Here with this newsletter we the students of M.A. English are attempting to start the conversation with a new literary tradition in our college. We putting ourselves out there though our words. With this newsletter "Sat-Sophia" we intend to make our views heard. In this pivotal period in India's history, democratic values are being eroded and it has become the responsibility of every citizen capable of critical thinking, to air their views. This newsletter is our platform, our stage to give our voices wings.

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A friend of mine, speaking about her in-laws and their attitude towards women, said with disgust, "My son is always called my husband's son, Ramu's son, he's my son too, you know, he's Sushma's son too." The discrimination is so subtle, so deeply rooted, we as a society don't even realise that we're saying something against women. It is trivialised and ignored. Somehow half the humanity's voice is silenced. If that wasn't enough, women are a target of violence which is widespread, persistent and devastating.

Men and women have become like the puppeteer and the puppet respectively. One is holding all the power and as the powerful often do, going to great lengths to retain power. The time has come for the tables to turn and women get their rightful due.

Today, November 25th, has been declared as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women by the United Nations and keeping with that spirit we have decided to bring out this newsletter with the same theme.

The violence has reached pandemic proportions. On the basis of data from the last ten years from 87 countries, one in five women between the ages 15 and 49 years said they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. In 2012, nearly 50 percent of women who were

victims of intentional homicide worldwide were killed by an intimate partner or family member, compared to 6 per cent of male victims. Another extreme case of violence against women is female genital mutilation. The prevalence of this harmful practice remains high in some 30 countries; survey data indicates that more than 1 in 3 girls between 15 and 19 years of age have undergone the procedure.

Charlotte Brontë in Jane Eyre writes, "I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will." In the same vein, this issue casts some light on women's rights and so the importance of gender equality which research shows helps in preventing conflict. We also intend to highlight recent women centric movements like the MeToo movement on social media and also the raging debates about recent movies and current affairs, through poems and articles.

We hope to show our readers a glimpse of feminism, using the intellectual acuity of AkkaMahadevi, the words of Virginia Woolf and the steel will of Simone de Beauvoir, and remind them women's voices *do* matter.

**Mr. Pramod Harley
I MA**

WOMEN – A Beauty Of Creator

She is the world,
Is only a myth
For that is the
reality
Says her experience

**Ms. Priya Ravi Kumar
II MA**

**F E A R + D I S T R U S T
+DOUBT=BRAVERY**

If we talk about bravery awards and to who it must be conferred to, then I would say it must be awarded to every single female of our world. Everyday we brave those lustful glares in our neighbourhood, those sheepish grins from those rear view mirrors of the autos and taxis we travel every day, those sexist remarks, groping and hoot calls in the street, workplace and every darn corner of this world where there is a male.

We brave each of these things everyday. Statistics shows that every woman in this world have been through some

forms of harassment in one way or the other. Many times by their own kind. Being in the same room as that person is fear in its utmost form. This fear generates a deep doubt in that woman. It stops her from trusting any male who is trustworthy.

This in turn leads to dissolving of her true and loved relationships. All these mixed emotions welling up inside her and leading her to a very vulnerable mental condition and yet she strikes a balance in her everyday life and emerges as a strong individual. If braving all that unwanted, disrespectful stares and hoot calls doesn't deserve a bravery award then what else does?

**Ms. M.V Sandhya Vijayan
I MA**

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**One is not born a
woman,
but becomes one**

Simone de Beauvoir

ARE WE LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY ?

Threatening the existence of democracy today are factors like devotion to religion , sect, caste and moral turpitude. The seventy years old young-India is being choked by all these aberrations. We have laws that are strangling the neck of the mass media. Mass media is the voice of democracy and a watch dog. The secretive killing of a pack of journalists across India has now paved way for openly threatening artistes in the name of caste and creed.

This extreme stand sounds the death knell of democracy. It's time for every individual to wake up and question the threats and murders of journalists. The act of silencing democracy will lead to fascism and replace the wisdom of our founding fathers of democracy in India.

India is on the verge of becoming dictatorial in all aspects of its existence. The day is not far off when we may have to echo poets like Martin Niemöller.



They came for the journalists and I didn't object - for I wasn't a journalist . They came for the free thinkers and I didn't object - for I wasn't a free thinker. They came for the feminists and I didn't object - for - I wasn't a feminist. They came for me - And there was no one left to object. Curbs on the freedom of the press aren't a new phenomenon. It happens all over the world and India is no exception.

During the British rule, there were strong curbs on the national press. Even the artistes weren't spared .They were accused of inciting violence against the state. We now have cartoonists being jailed for the satire they exhibit in their cartoons. It's said that history repeats itself. It's so true of our country. Liberty and freedom of expression are in danger.

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A case in point of the banning of the film "Padmavathi".

Do we have to fight for our liberty again? Do we have to free ourselves from the shackles of slavery? Are we going to stop the ideologies being imposed on us?

Above all are we going to stand up for others and eventually for ourselves? These are the questions that we need to answer.

The freedom that the freedom fighters earned is like a fixed deposit that is being slowly drained off. It's time for us to accumulate a fixed deposit of liberty for us and our progeny.

A quote to remember , "They may torture my body, break my bones, even kill me. Then they will have my dead body, but not my obedience".

It's time for a Satyagraha again.

**Mr. Raj Kiran S
I MA**

LASS . . .

Taken for granted...
Taken for granted...
Lass - is always taken for granted.

Lass interesting lass,
But unsparingly mutilated!!!
Filled with kindness in her eyes;
are taken for granted by monsters.

Though full of intellectual ideas,
She was suppressed and is under the
POWER of???

Slowly very slowly,
Fearlessness being sowed through
education! Is
every now and then being -
tested by the brutal behaviors.

Sprout sprout out of IT, strong stronger:
The lass would bring a violence free world.

**Swetha.S
II year MA**

**"No struggle can ever succeed
without women participating side
by side with men."**

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

It's time to acknowledge

Manushi Chhillarthe, the world's most beautiful girl gave a very striking response to the question "Who should be paid the highest salary?" She replied to the thunderous applause that a mother deserve to be paid the best salary because she is the one who works without expecting money. At the very instant what she said appeared to be more beautiful than her physical appearance.

Women right from their birth to death naturally experience certain unavoidable pains which begin from the womb and ends at her tomb.

With all these difficulties a majority of men terribly dominate women and go a step further showing their manpower which result in tragic events like rape, murder, etc. A man in order to show his strength can fight with a man in a boxing bout. There is nothing as shameful as the act of committing crime against an innocent woman. A man who is a human, will never show disrespect towards women because being human is being a respectful man who is not only a brother, father, and son but also a better human to all who are not his or her own blood related relations.

**Mr. Alwyn D'Souza
I MA**

ONLY ONE MOTHER

**Everything I see in the world are
unaccountable.
There are thousands of stars on the blue
sky.
There are thousands of birds that go
singing by
I see; hundreds of dew drops in the
morning
Hundreds of butterflies in the garden
But there is only one MOTHER for you and
me.**

**Sr. Susai Mary
II year MA**



Give Women a chance..

Women have been treated as the “other” in the society; the other whose ways of thinking and feeling are considered mysterious thus not easily understood by the main stream. In the book “*The Second Sex*” Simone de Beauvoir would extensively argue that it is men who have made the woman the ‘other’ by creating an aura of ‘Mystery’ around her and choosing not to understand her and her problems. ‘*A woman is not born but made*’ she would say. The chain of events highlighting the violence and oppression inflicted on women down the centuries make one think that the society has no consciousness or it is dead. I would like to believe and emphasize that the conscious of the society is not dead but asleep, especially with regard to the treatment of women. Each individual in the society is responsible for putting it to sleep thus, has the responsibility of awakening it.

The English reading world took several years to come to terms with the fact that the seeds of creativity can grow into tall trees even among women. It is the same with many cultures and traditions across the globe. Many women were droved to take shelter under the male pen names to reach out to the reading world. Sadly even to today the classics like “Adam Bede”, “The Mill on the Floss” and so on reminds us of George Eliot but not of ‘Mary Ann Evans’ which is her real name. Somehow one finds it hard to associate such great works with a woman author. It’s a deep embedded belief, that ‘creativity is specially designed for man, because he was created first and a woman shares only part of his ribs’ that has caused all the trouble.

It is no wonder the knowledge of, Kathryn Bigelow walking away with the best director and the best movie awards at the Oscar for her breath taking “Hurt Locker”, for the year 2010 was hurting to many across the world; who were not used to looking at the reality through a woman’s eye. It was not an easy task for the first woman ever to win an Oscar for the direction and the best film. When a section of people were joyous, that the curse placed on women directors were finally lifted, the majority of the world was highly skeptic about the whole decision making process itself. Despite women proving their worth, given a chance in every sphere, still a genuine acceptance of them and their work remains a far hope. Be it music, movie, art, economics and politics, the touch of woman is evidently absent, and that is a sad part of the story.

Equality between male and female has remained the talk of the centuries and continue to do so without much effect, because of the fetish attitude of the society regarding women. Women are placed in a golden cage, which is nevertheless a cage. Many tend to place the ‘gold’ above the ‘cage’ and say ‘things are actually fine’, when it is not. Gandhiji was not ignorant when he said “*our country is truly free, only when a lady is able to walk freely and without fear, from Kashmir to Kanyakumary at midnight.*” He had seen the vulnerability of women from close quarters and had understood the need for setting them free and treating them equally. The fact that every three minute a crime is reported against a woman in India, very well holds mirror to the injustice heaved upon them from the various sections of society. Police reports actually account for the rise in violence against women in recent years. What does the growing literacy rates, developed conscious of the society stand for, If not to tackle and remove the unhealthy social practices? It is very evident from the recent instances



of violence on women that, men who are educated and highly influential are no way behind in carrying out such atrocities. I dare say the hatred or the desire to impose violence on women lies deep within the man who has grown believing in his superiority over woman.

Getting women into mainstream society is the need of the time. It should also ensure an access to every sphere of life be it movie, art, dance, politics and so on. We often fail to remember that it is inclusion and not exclusion that is the key to success. No country or culture can actually claim to have treated a woman equally giving her all the freedom to stand on her legs and think on her own, be it ‘civilized’ or ‘uncivilized’. The highly developed and sophisticated country like USA is yet to trust a woman to lead her. The Great Britain is yet to find another

woman to lead her after Margret Thatcher. No one can even dream of seeing a woman president in china, given the present situation. India might take few more years, in fact decades, to give a green signal to the women’s bill and implement it in the parliament. The social conditions of women in Indian villages and cities alike if recorded will form a voluminous book of tragedy. The fact that the child marriages and sati system continue to survive despite their abolition, speak for the vulnerability of women in Indian soil.

We have lost much by not letting the world taste and be shaped by the philosophy that a woman could have offered.

I don’t think I would be wrong if I say that the world is in conflict today because of its incompleteness and the lack of love and affection that a woman alone can offer. It is not even difficult to suggest that the monstrous world wars would have remained a distant dream, if women were to be part of the policy making and diplomatic process. We have lost much by not letting the world taste and be shaped by the philosophy that a woman could have offered. We have reached the brim of everything, be it global warming, deforestation, inflation, food crisis, political instability and corruption. It is high time that we let the women be our co-partners and co-producers. It takes only a rainbow and a moon light to teach us that everything in nature functions with co-operation and collaboration. Why not human beings?

I strongly believe that we Indians, who have given a special place for women in our culture and tradition, have a greater role in winning back the same at the national and international level. Let’s unearth the hidden treasurers in women for the good of all.

Mr. Jerrin Chandan S
Dept. of English

Sexual harassment on women at work place.

World today is in need of skilled labor. Companies are looking for young minds who are corporate ready. We see a lot of young women who want to live independent. They are proving that they are not less than men. They are giving a tough competition for men and are achieving mile stones in almost all the fields. There is no field where we do not find women. They have come out of kitchen and have reached space.

Women have shown their potential and are taking up challenging jobs all around the globe. While that being said, there raises another question of safety. The most widely debated topic today is sexual harassment on women at work place. We read about these at least once a month in news papers. Very few cases get recorded. What about those which don't get recorded. Companies fear for their reputation and try to solve these issues internally. The worst part is superiors and bosses who are supposed to be the protectors turn out to be offenders.

Many laws are passed to control this issue. Even though these laws exist and culprits are punished the issue still persists and is increasing.

So what can be done to avoid such issues?

There was a social experiment conducted among kids. A boy and a girl are made to sit next to each other. They then ask the boy to slap the girl. Every kid in the video hesitates to hit. Some kids even said it's bad to hit girls. This experiment clearly shows that the kids are not born to be violent against women. Their surroundings change them to behave that way when they grow up.

So keeping that in mind there are few things that I think would help the society overcome this issue. I am focusing on two aspects here. The first aspect is education. Even though people who work in these corporate offices are educated. They lack soft skills.

Education system these days are focusing more on concepts which we don't use on a daily basis. Education system should include more soft skills. They have to incorporate concepts about gender equality. Syllabus should talk more about violence against women. These concepts should bring about change in young minds.

The second concept that I would like to focus is parenting. Parents have to make sure that their kids cultivate good practice. Teach them that women are no less than men. Parents should treat their daughters equally. They should not deprive them from any basic rights like education. Husbands abusing and dominating their wives in front of their kids would affect their mind. This attitude has been there in Indian society for centuries. Their kids learn this and do the same thing to their wives.

These two concepts would surely bring change in people's mind. It would change the way they look at women.

Mr. Sri Sandeep
I MA

Open Window

I do not know
What I want
What I see
What I think
Is me
And whole!

I search
I find everything
But sometimes
It has something
Which others search
And find it!

Are we one of them?
To search
What they fear
We shouldn't see
But then they have
Shown it!

Every eye
Hunts to perceive
Scanning the unknown
To make known
Instincts melt
And satisfy it!

Mr. Bob Nathanael

I MA

Will You Join me?

The Indian constitution has many laws on equality and has made many amendments with regard to the same but has failed to translate into a reality especially with regard to women. In this article I would like to throw light on unequal treatment and gender discrimination against women.

Though India is a country that worships many goddess but contrary it fails to respect women and fails to

acknowledge their contribution towards the society. Though things have been changing with regard to science and technology but things have not changed with regard to women.

The patriarchal structure has inevitably denied equal treatment and I must confess that I am part to it. It took years of study and sensitivity to see beyond the dominant structure and realize that I was wrong in treating women as subordinates. I have realized and so have many of my friends who share my gender. I am committed to change my views and look forward to build a more egalitarian society. I am also while the individual efforts are necessary but it will not take us too long. An African proverb says "If you want to go quickly go alone and if you want to go far go together" but today we have to go quickly and together to reach that goal. We need to aim at destroying the unequal structures at global level. The signs of changes that we have witnessed gives me hope that the desired future is not an impossible dream at the same time the continued violence on women points out that the journey to the promised land is not easy. Whatever it is I am walking toward a definite goal. Will you join me?

Mr. K Prabhu
II Year

Broken Bond

Violence ,Violence, Violence
O women the mother of all
Violence against women is
Violence against presence of oneself

Violence ,Violence, Violence
The society being full of wild people
Weird and strange mankind
Violence be thy weapon of men.

Violence ,Violence, Violence
O men be merciful towards
Women of family, the root of
Your presence on this earth.

Violence ,Violence, Violence
The violence against the love
Care, passion and sacrifice
Of women is now sentenced to violence

O MEN OF GREAT NATIONS
IF VIOLENCE BE THY WEAPON
THEN WORLD OF YOUR
CHILDHOOD LOVE BE THY END ...

Nagarani .M

II year MA