Gender and Disability in Literature

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Abstract
Literature is something which transfers the thoughts and perspectives of the author to the readers and thus results the success of any literary work on the other hand it reflects the society. This paper describes the differences which is prevailing among the human community that has the power to destroy them too. Disability, is the physical or mental condition that limits a person’s movements, senses or activities. Though the people live together they are strongly rooted with their differences. Both Gender and disability has ruined the dreams of many achievers and there are few who have overcome all those in the journey towards their goals.

Keywords: Creation, Isolated, Neglect, Restriction, Similar

Initially God has created the world with creatures like birds, animals, etc. ....later he has created the man named Adam, then as days passed he has made a woman for his company and her name is Eve. They lead a happy life together all of a sudden on one fine day the villainous Satan, has manipulated Eve to eat the forbidden fruit which is against the order of the almighty, she then forced Adam to eat it. He too go against God and finally he consumes it for this act they were punished by the omnipotent. From there onwards people have a belief
that the sins of the people are because of the disobedience of the human kind that too the main reason behind it was Eve, forget to think about the evil Satan. Gender discrimination have started from those period itself.

The World Health Organisation(WHO) defines gender roles as “socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women”

“Gender refers to the cultural, socially constructed differences between two sexes. It refers to the way a society encourages and teaches the two sexes to behave in different ways through socialisation”- Browne, 1992)

Disabilities is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations.

In the play entitled as *The Glass Menagerie* which is a memory play written by *Tennessee Williams*, and its action is drawn from the memories of the narrator, Tom Wingfield. Mr. Wingfield has ran out the house where Tom is in the position to take care of the family. He has a mother Amanda, and a sister named Laura Wingfield, who wears a brace on her leg and is painfully shy, does not attract any gentleman callers. Laura’s mother Amanda is inviting gentlemen callers for her daughter Laura. She has enrolled herself in the business college, hoping that she will make her own and the family’s fortune through a business career. Her shyness has led her to drop out of the class secretly and spend her days wandering in the city alone. She has developed the inferiority complex and was not ready to face any gentlemen callers instead she started to collect the glass animals and make into a menagerie. On the other hand her mother forced her brother to call for a gentle men caller.
Finally on one day he brought his friend named Jim O’connor to his house. His mother misunderstood him as the gentleman caller for her daughter but actually he was not, he just accompanied Tom to his house but his company has made Laura comfortable because Jim and Laura have studied in the same school and were discussed about their good old memories of their school days. His conversation has made confidence in her and when she came to know the truth that he has already committed, she felt sad but this time not so deep she has matured to accept the reality.

In the novel, To Kill A Mockingbird is written by Harper Lee, Jean Louise (Scout Finch), who is the narrator of the story and the daughter of Atticus Finch, who is the lawyer of Maycomb city. There is a character named Boo Radley in the novel who is a young boy in trouble with the police, and his strictly religious and reclusive parents have kept him indoors ever since. A Prisoner in his home, he stabbed his father with scissors once, and no one has seen him sincece. The town has developed a myth that he is an insane monster who wanders around at night peering into people’s windows. Throughout the story he lives with his brother who has the control over him. The whole city belive him as the monster but he is the who helped Scout and Jem towards the end of the plot.

By reading these two stories we, the readers can understand that people are ignored based on the physical and mental ability as well as the use of them in the society. In “The Glass Menagerie” Laura is a girl and she has a shyness to face the society through this we can analyse the mindset of the women, which is that if they have any fault within them they tries to move far away from the society in order to avoid the unwanted issues and hurtings, whereas in “To Kill A Mockingbird” Boo Radely is locked inside the house by this own family inorder to avoid the
crisis. Both Gender and Disability is the differences of the mob but gender has two divisions namely, Male and Female, disability is considered as one impairments in the people. Both characters possed the positive character in the end of the story( Laura develops confidence within herself, Boo came out of this comfort zone and helped Scout) which is the normal character of a human so, it is better to include them in the normal society.

“NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE THE WORD IMPOSSIBLE ITSELF SAYS THAT I' AM POSSIBLE”

Every human is similar by their creation difference is in, how they use it in their lifetime and thus creates their identity.
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