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In Vikram Seth novels: The women as an idol of love, sacrifices and tolerance

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Abstract---A major goal of this research is to establish that Vikram Seth is a novelist who is deeply concerned with the plight of women, as well as their significant place and role in society. Three novels “The Golden Gate”, “A Suitable Boy”, and “An Equal Music” by Vikram Seth were taken into consideration for this project. All of Vikram Seth's works take place in three separate countries: America, India, and Europe. In doing so, we may appreciate Vikram Seth's profound knowledge and comprehension of women, as well as their well-recognized purpose and place not just in Indian society, but also in European and American society. Seth has presented his reader to the magical power that women have in the formation and maintenance of families and society. Female iconography has been established by Seth as one of love, tolerance, and sacrifices, in all of his writings, but particularly in *A Suitable Boy*. She is portrayed as a model housewife and well-wisher for her family. Aside from that, Vikram Seth describes her as the "cornerstone of the family" in his all novels. It is the purpose of this brief study article to examine the place and role of women at home and in society in both Western and Eastern countries.

Keywords---Vikram Seth novels, women, *The Golden Gate*, *A Suitable Boy*, *An Equal Music*, love, sacrifice, tolerance.

Introduction

After marriage, a woman's existence is filled with limits, limitations, sacrifice, tolerance, and adjustment.

Love spans a wide spectrum of powerful and beneficial mental and emotional states, from the greatest virtue and virtuous habits to the most complex interpersonal affection, all the way down to the simplest pleasure [1-2]. It is defined as "a strong and intensely felt attachment to someone or something, particularly a member of one's family or a friend [3]." A range of related but separate interpretations for the word 'love' can be found in a variety of contexts. Love is defined as the attachment of parents to their children, the passionate bond between a husband and wife, the deep bond between friends, as well as a human's patriotic emotions for his nation or his devotional affections for God. Loving someone is a form of feeling that can be felt but not stated verbally. Without considering the consequences, love is a kind of limitless ocean in which a person can drown or merge completely without even thinking it. Another definition of love is that it is a type of crazy, delirium, or drug that causes someone who has fallen in love to create his or her own world of fantasies and wishes to live there permanently, away from the harsh reality of everyday life. Additionally, love can be defined as "a measure of selfless giving and receiving."

Tolerance refers to the ability or willingness to tolerate unusual conditions, behaviors, or viewpoints held by members of a society. It's a state of mind of being able to accept even the most oppressive situations. Tolerance is defined as the ability of a person to tolerate pain, emotional suffering, disappointment, sarcasm, failure, and a sense of belonging to a religious, societal, or cultural group. It is defined as "the ability to endure something, particularly pain, tough circumstances, and so on, without being injured [3]." It is the ability to accept someone or anything that is irritating, unpleasant, and filthy without expressing any displeasure with them. Tolerating criticism, strange statements, situations, and sorrows without complaining is what it means to be tolerant. Women are God's creations who are overflowing with tolerance, allowing them to tolerate anything & everything, even if it goes against their wishes or interests. To be able to endure and face any circumstances is a heavenly virtue, and women are abundant in this virtue. The women have a remarkable ability to confront and bear the harsh truths of the world. They deal with any scenario and maintain their composure, even when confronted with repulsive scenarios, and they never consider taking their own lives out of anger. They have inspired others throughout the world to trust in the "miraculous strength of women who struggle against the most difficult obstacles [5]." According to novelist Vikram Seth, there is an underlying spirit of tolerance in India and any Indian who disparages others on the basis of religion, food, or love is unworthy of the position of leader [6].

Sacrifice is defined as giving something up for the sake of someone you care about or admire. It could mean sacrificing one's life for the sake of the country. Sacrifice is defined as giving up one's comforts, hobbies, joys, and luxuries in order to care for a loved one. Sacrifice, according to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, "the act of giving up something that is significant or useful to you in order to obtain or perform something that appears to be more important for yourself or for another person [3]." Infatuation is defined as the willingness or readiness to go to any length in honor of the person you love. It is a feminine quality to be willing to sacrifice one's comfort in order to effectively govern one's family, and the woman has always been ready to do so. For the sake of her child, spouse, and other members of the family, she is willing to give her life if that

means sacrificing herself. There is no indication that she has an independent existence and that she exists purely for the sake of her family's well-being. Each of the qualities of love, tolerance, and sacrifice is connected with the others, and one virtue is incomplete and meaningless if the others are not present. For example, if love is genuine, it necessitates sacrifice otherwise; it results in a dismal break-up of the relationship. When someone is in love, he or she is willing to put aside their own interests and bear any and all circumstances.

In all three of his novels, Vikram Seth depicts these feminine traits in a positive light. He has constructed female characters with such an artistic understanding that they remain in our hearts and minds long after we have finished reading the novels in which they appeared. While the number of female characters in *"The Golden Gate"* and *"An Equal Music"* is limited, the women who do appear are abundant in these characteristics. *"A Suitable Boy"*, on the other hand, is filled with a diverse cast of female characters, each with their own unique status and attributes. It is true that there are women from Muslim and Hindu societies who are lower-class and middle-class women, widowed and married, young and old, prostitutes and reputed women, oppressed and oppressing or women who have been exploited, but they are all endowed with divine virtues of sacrifice, tolerance and love, and they are all able to adapt to the prevailing society and situation despite the fact that it is disgusting and difficult to bear. The female protagonists have demonstrated that "women are the stronger sex" [5] and that they are capable of turning the world upside down.

The Golden Gate

Throughout the novel *"The Golden Gate"*, the main story of Janet and John is narrated by the narrator and is comprised of the themes of understanding, separation, love, and reinforcement of love, and finally loss. A keen need for an adoring companion in person existence who possesses attributes of understanding, adaptations, and even sacrifices is felt throughout the world. The importance of face-to-face interaction between people cannot be overstated, and it cannot be replaced by cell phones, fax machines, or any other kind of modern technology-based communication. There is now a cheap, ghostly, confused nervous and unpleasant way of living as a result of this policy.

Mrs. Dorati, Claire, Janet and Liz Dorati are all notable female characters in this novel *"The Golden Gate"*, as are other female characters in the narrative. All of the female characters, with the exception of Claire, are shown in a positive manner. Liz is a representation of Seth's concept of love. She demonstrates that she is a role model for tolerance, sacrifice and love. Liz Dorati comes across an advertisement for marriage in the newspapers and resolves to see John in order to determine whether or not he will make a good husband. Liz falls in love with John the moment she meets him [7]. "To be gratified by the happiness of another" is what love are all about [6]. Liz, who has fallen in love with John, is willing to give up her happiness for the sake of her boyfriend. She tolerates John's unusual behavior, such as his hatred for Liz's beloved cat Charlmagne, and does her best to adjust herself to John, despite the fact that their romantic relationship cannot survive any longer due to Liz's hasty marriage to Phil, which brings an end to her romance with John. John is no longer a priority in Liz's life, so she marries Phil, a

divorcee with a six-year-old boy from his previous marriage to Claire. Liz demonstrates her abilities as a mother and wife by caring for Paul with compassion, despite the fact that she is his step-mother. Despite the fact that Liz and Phil did not share a romantic relationship prior to marriage, their relationship blossoms once they are married, and they prove themselves to be the best of friends and parents after Liz gives birth to a son by Phil. Liz endures all of the bizarre scenarios that come her way, never losing her temper, and learning to adapt to the new circumstances [13].

'The importance of love in human life, and the sacrifices that must be made before one can enjoy the joys that love gives,' accord to the Golden Gate Bridge [10]. A remarkable female character in the story, Janet demonstrates herself to be an icon of love, toleration and sacrifice during the course of the novella. The relationship begins throughout her undergraduate years with John. Although she is in love with him and they are together, John sees their relationship as a hindrance to their independence and they decide to conduct their lives in their own way. "John has not given love the attention it deserves throughout his carefree youth, preferring the freedom that bachelorhood connotes to most men to the restraints of matrimony [10]." However, true love can never be destroyed, and Janet still has feelings for John, despite the fact that he abandoned her in favor of individual liberty. In later years, after learning that John has been abandoned by Liz and has begun seeing adorable chicks in an attempt to soothe his depressed, tormented, vile spirit and to find some solace in their companionship, Janet's heart aches for John, and the flames of her previous love for John are rekindled. She prepares herself to forgive John for his past carelessness and puts out her best effort to rescue John from the enticing clutches of gorgeous chicks. She accepts John despite the fact that she had been abandoned and neglected by him previously. She possesses extraordinary perseverance due to the fact that she is able to keep her emotions in check when her sculptors are condemned by the reviewers, despite the reality that she becomes irritated for a period of time during this process [13].

Mrs. Dorati recognizes the importance of love, as she expresses in "*The Golden Gate*": "It is love that keeps the world turning." She demonstrates her ability to be a caring wife and mother. In her marriage, she and her spouse had a fulfilling existence. She hopes for the same happiness and contentment for her kids, Ed, Sue and Liz, and she is concerned that they will not be able to settle into their new life in a satisfactory manner. Mrs. Dorati has a pleasant and satisfying married life, in which she lives in love and cooperation with her spouse. a happy married life is possible because of various feminine characteristics, such as sacrifices, tolerance and love, and Mrs. Dorati possesses a great deal of these virtues in abundance. These values serve as the foundation of her successful marriage, and she cherishes them [7].

A Suitable Boy

Throughout "*A Suitable Boy*", there are numerous female characters who exemplify the rare, divine, and female virtues of tolerance, sacrifice and love, amongst other things. Lata is the primary character in the novel "*A Suitable Boy*", It is the central theme of the novel Lata's courtship, love and eventual marriage to

a suitable boy. She demonstrates that she is the personification of tolerance, sacrifice and love. She develops a strong romantic attachment to a Muslim young boy named Kabir, despite the fact that she is unaware of his religious or ethnic background. Despite her best efforts, Lata is unable to resist "his alluring appeal and oozing sexuality." She falls head over heels in love to him and cannot stop thinking about him. [11]. She is seduced by Kabir's charisma to the point where she is willing to abandon her family's honor in order to be with him, despite the fact that Kabir does not reciprocate her feelings. Lata's mother, Mrs. Rupa Mehra, finds out about Lata and Kabir, and she persuades her daughter to see Haresh and to consider him for the role of her future spouse. When Lata first meets Haresh, she does not find him appealing. Despite the fact that she dislikes his manner of dressing, His habit of eating paan, as well as his unmatched shoes, Lata accepts all of Haresh's strange virtues and chooses him as her potential spouse. Lata is also a representation of the fundamental value of womanhood: self-sacrifice. Despite the fact that Lata agrees to marry Haresh since She's crazy in love with Kabir, much to the surprise of everyone. She makes the difficult decision to put her feelings for Kabir aside only for her family, mainly her mother, who she considers to be her mother-in-law. It's difficult for Lata to let go of her affections with Kabir and accept Haresh as her spouse, even though she doesn't yet love or like him. She also struggles to let go of her affections for Kabir. Alternatively, Lata signifies a woman who is always willing to put others' needs ahead of her own and is willing to sacrificing her own preferences, interest, emotions, and life for the sake of people she cares about. Lata sacrifices her affection for her mother in order for her to not be concerned or angry over her plan to marry a member of the Muslim community, whom Mrs. Rupa Mehra strongly disapproves of on a personal level [8].

Mrs. Rupa Mehra loses her husband while she is in the best of times of her life, yet she demonstrates herself brave enough to handle the terrible and difficult truths of life. She foregoes her personal comforts for the sake of her children, even selling her jewelry and other valuables in order to give them with a better education. She raises her children without a father in the greatest possible manner. She bravely endures all of the difficulties that the Almighty God has bestowed upon her. Mrs. Rupa Mehra is devoted to her children and is concerned about their well-being at all times. Her top priority is to see that her children are married off to suitable mates. She marries Pran, despite the fact that he is gangly, asthmatic, and lanky, to her elder daughter Savita. A well-educated, compassionate and affectionate person like Pran is the perfect match for her daughter, according to Mrs. Mehra. In addition, she is taken aback when her younger daughter Lata falls in love with a Muslim lad named Kabir and rescues her from Kabir's captivating spell of love. In Haresh, she discovers a suitable life partner for Lata, one who is reasonable, mature, and pragmatic. She desires her children nothing but happiness and success. She does not allow her children to go wrong in their life. She looks for all of her children's comforts and prepares herself to assist and serve them in their times of need. She is devoted to her daughter Uma and takes excellent care of Savita during her pregnancy. [12].

Mrs. Mahesh Kapur is the epitome of tolerance, love, & self-sacrificing service. She loves and reveres her domineering spouse as a divinity, and she submits to all of his demands with humility. She prays for her husband's long life and even

fasts for his good health and fortune. She refuses to eat anything until her spouse has. This worship of her husband as a god could be motivated by her affection or regard for him. She possesses an incredible capacity for endurance, as evidenced by her ability to accept all of her husband's nasty words, comments, and carelessness without uttering a single word against him. She puts her own interests aside for sake of her family, particularly her husband. She is also revered as a goddess of love. She adores her younger son Maan to the point where she becomes agitated when she learns that he has been sentenced to prison for stabbing Firoz. She convinces her husband to make the required arrangements for his bond release. She died of sudden strokes after being unable to cope with the trauma of Maan's imprisonment.

She is also filled to overflowing with love, tolerance, and sacrifice as a 35 year old prostitute Saeeda Bai, demonstrates. Her sexual awakening occurs when she is fifteen years old and she becomes pregnant as a result of the seduction by Nawab Sahib. As a result of giving birth to a named Tasneem a baby girl, she becomes an unwed mother for the first time. Tasneem, on the other hand, is her younger sister in the eyes of the community. With tenderness, Saeeda Bai raises Tasneem and ensures that she has access to all of the amenities available at her disposal. She hides Tasneem from the depressing Prostitutes' world and also has her personal admirers who are only interested in having sex for their own selfish motives to gratify their desires. As much as she is able, Saeeda Bai provides Tasneem with the best educational opportunities possible, including arranging for Rasheed to teach Tasneem Urdu at her home. She adores Tasneem to the point that she does not want Tasneem to pursue a career in the same field as hers. For the sake of her infant daughter, who was conceived when she was a young and impressionable teenager; she is willing to give up her own life. The moment Saeeda Bai learns of, Firoz , Rasheed, and Ishaq Khan adoration for Tasneem, she determines that none of them are acceptable for her daughter and rejects them all for various reasons. This woman does not wish for her devoted daughter to suffer at the hands of these men or live in fear of her future. Despite the fact that prostitutes are hired to sexually and emotionally entertain men, she tolerates and entertains her admirers despite her reluctance to do so because she must earn her living in this manner in order to keep her daughter out of the gloomy world of prostitutes in order to provide for her. In order to improve the situation in Tasneem, Saeeda Bai sacrifices her life [13].

Tasneem is the inebriated daughter of Saeeda Bai and Nawab Sahib. She admires and likes Firoz, Ishaq Khan, and Rasheed, each more difficult to obtain than the last, and in each case "she had let her attachment grow in secret, and had grieved their sudden separation in silence" [14]. To protect her sister Saeeda Bai, Tasneem sacrifices her own gladness for the sake of the other. She humbly follows her sister's orders like a docile sheep. Veena Kpoor is Mahesh Kpoor's daughter, and she is a model. She is married to Kedarnath, a shoemaker who is also her husband. During her time in Lahor and India, Veena is subjected to a great deal of abuse at the hands of her husband's mother. While venting her frustrations over her mother-in-law to her friend Priya, Veena says, "When she sees that I'm not miserable, she becomes even more wretched"[8]. Veena puts up with all of her mother-in-law's abuse and learns to live in the same household as her husband's family as well. Veena is forced to deal with difficult circumstances,

and she even considers selling her jewelry in order to cope with the difficulties of everyday life. As Veena endures all of the restraints of orthodox, dogmatic, and patriarchal Indian society, she establishes herself as a strong and independent woman. She possesses an exceptional ability to withstand all of life's difficulties and maintains her composure under any circumstances. She has no desire to obtain what she perceives to be out of reach. She is willing to put her own interests and desires aside for the sake of her loved ones.

The Mehra's elder daughter, Savita, is the eldest of their three children. Ms. Kapoor is married to Mr. Mahesh Kapoor's oldest son, Pran, whom she has two children with. Despite the fact that Savita dislikes Pran because of his dark complexion, lanky build, and asthmatic condition, she eventually comes to terms with the fact that her mother wants her to marry him anyhow. The desires of Savita's own life are put aside for the sake of her mother's happiness. Savita and Pran are in love before they marry, but their love blossoms naturally after they are married, and Savita reveals herself to be a loving and caring mother as well as a wife. Others, such as Malati's mother, Kachheru's wife, Rasheed's wife (who was the widow of his late brother), Mrs. Chatterji, Kedarnath's mother, Rasheed's mother, and others accommodate themselves to the circumstances of their families and societies in which they find themselves. Love, tolerance, and sacrifice are demonstrated by each and every one of them.

For Muslim women, tolerance and sacrifice are also important aspects of their lives. As a result of a tradition that "Muslim males can unilaterally divorce a lawfully wedded wife by simply pronouncing talaq thrice... that hangs over their marital status like a sword"[15], they must live in fear of the threat of talaq. After marriage, they are relegated to the desolate world of purdah. Nawab Sahib's wife, like other Muslim women, maintains purdah throughout her entire life and does everything in her power to get along with her husband, who does not establish himself as a devoted and trustworthy spouse by having sexual encounters with Saeeda Bai, a prostitute, and being responsible for her being pregnant at the age of fifteen. In spite of all of her best efforts, she is unable to convince her husband that he is a trustworthy and devoted husband. She accepts all of the restrictions imposed on her by patriarchal Muslim society, as well as her husband's illicit relationship with Saeeda Bai, and she does not speak out against these restrictions or the relationship. She sacrifices her personal desires and joys in order to care for her family and adhere to the rules that are established within the context of Muslim culture. The sole daughter of Nawab Sahib who had an education "disappears into the world of purdah after her marriage and silently bears the infidelities of her husband," according to the novelist [16].

An Equal Music

"*An Equal Music*" depicts the musicians' modest social environment as it exists in their own heads. As a side note, the story brings to light a universal human desire for a loving lifelong partner who possesses the characteristics of patience, tolerance, and as well as understanding and modifications. Intersexuality is employed in this situation. There are allusions to the poetry of John Donne, a metaphysical poet, throughout the novel. In the story, intersexuality is used to great effect by the hero, Michael, while he is experiencing intense emotional

intensity. There are biblical references that illustrate Michael's mental state as well as Guy's existential crisis in the postmodern time, which are both addressed in the novel [18].

"An Equal Music" is primarily a story about music, specifically on the variety of musical tones and musical instruments, but it is also a narrative about sacrifice, tolerance and love at the same time. Mrs Formby, Julia, and Michael's mother make up the majority of the novel's female protagonists. Juliette is the novel's central character, and the narrative is centered on the intense and sexual relationship that develops between Michael and Julia. In the human heart, love is an interior feeling that exists in the most inward region of the body. When Julia and Michael were both students of music, they fell in love with each other passionately. They meet at a concert, and within a week of meeting, they realize they are in love with each other. Because of a disagreement with his teacher, Karl Call, Michael flees Julia and Vienna in a rage and travels to the United Kingdom. After realizing his error, Michael makes every effort to re-establish their romantic relationship. However, he comes up empty-handed because he was unable to reach Julia. Julia exemplifies the virtues of selflessness and love in action. She is completely smitten with Michael and can't stop thinking about him. It's hard for her to go on without Michael after spending the night with the night before. She married another guy, James, an American financier, when there was no hope of them ever reuniting. But she couldn't get the memories of Michael out of her head or out of her heart [9].

Women are endowed with the virtue of never forgetting their first love. Despite ten years of unbearable separation, the Almighty God allows them to rekindle their love. As a result of meeting Julia on a bus in London for a few brief moments, Michael becomes obsessed with trying to contact her. He hires a cab in an attempt to contact her, but his efforts are in fruitless and he returns home empty-handed once again. As if to confirm their good fortune, At the time that Michael was playing the violin at Wigmore Hall, God directed Julia to go there to see him and meet him there. Julia and Michael's hearts are rekindled by the unquenchable flames of unrequited love. Julia feels an emotional and sexual attraction to Michael despite the fact that she is married to James and has a seven-year-old boy with him. It is there that she meets up with Michael at his apartment, where they both love listening to music in a soundproof room and having sexual encounters with each other. Michael and Julia are so in love with each other that Julia joins Michael on a trip to Vienna and Venice with a group of other musicians, where they can take delight in sexual activity together while still appreciating each other's presence and living as husband and wife. However, this type of immorality is not acceptable to either Vikram Seth or the general public, and as a result, Seth has forced Julia to recognize her foolishness and craziness very quickly, and she has returned to her stable and loving family, leaving Michael to grieve alone.

Julia's persona, Julia, embodies the idea that women are idols of love. She is madly in love with Michael, but she is also madly in love with her husband, James, and her son, Luke with the same intensity. As a direct result of her time spent with Michael in Vienna, she develops a newfound appreciation for the value of family, love, and the sense of fulfillment that comes from being a contributing

member of a happy family, and she sees the absurdity in engaging in self-centered and ephemeral extramarital sexual love relationships. Michael's sexual, selfish, fleeting, and passionate love is the driving cause behind her decision to return to her family and leave Michael behind. In comparison to Michael's intense love, she considers her kid and husband's love to be more steady, satisfying, moral, and holy. For the most part, Julia knows that Michael represents her history and that "one cannot live in the past forever [11]."

Julia is also offered as a role model for tolerance and self-sacrifice in the novel. Julia bravely bears Michael's unexpected and heartbreaking abandonment, and she maintains complete control over her heart and intellect. After marrying James, she is able to maintain control over her emotions and create a happy family. Because she has been betrayed in love, she does not become frustrated, but instead confronts the harsh truths of life and makes no attempt to take her own life. Despite the fact that Julia has to deal with the problem of hearing loss after marriage, she does not lose heart and faces the situation head on. She does everything she can to deal with her physical disease or disability as best she can. She performs admirably in musical concerts and gains recognition and reputation in the world of music as a result of her outstanding piano skills.

Julia is a sacrificial idol. Michael, a fellow musician, was her student crush. When Michael unexpectedly abandons her, she marries James. After ten years apart, they rekindle their old fires in London. They have sexual interactions despite Julia being married to someone else. As time goes on, Julia comes to the conclusion that marriage and family are important, and she seeks solace and contentment in the arms of James, who is loving, calming, and caring. Aside from being abandoned by Michael, Julia had to leave him heartbroken twice in her life since she cannot live a double life. She can't keep both Michael and James. To be at ease, she must choose one of them. Danielle thinks Michael is a dreamy person who hasn't planted his feet firmly in reality and lives in dreams. To save her family, Julia puts her feelings for Michael aside and returns to her loving family.

Michael's mother is also shown as a symbol of tolerance, sacrifices, and love. Too much love for her son and hubby. So when her spouse gets bronchitis, she takes great care of him. She works as a dinner lady to help support her husband's medical expenses and her family's daily expenses. All the adversities that Almighty God or fate throws upon her she bears. She quits the world abruptly, sacrificing her own interests and comforts for her families. My mother strained herself trying to feed him, to work as a dinner lady at a school and to fight the case," Michael describes his mother's exhaustion in the novel. But it was she who died of a stroke, not him [9].

Mrs. Formby epitomizes the virtues of love, sacrifice, and tolerance. A love for her nephew prompts her to rethink a decision she had previously made not to have any children. She also has a special place in her heart for Michael, whom she later gives her violin, Tononi, to. Mrs. Formby sacrifices her comforts for the sake of her nephew's children. She takes care of everything for her nephew's children's education. In spite of her best efforts, her nephew is a manipulative, self-centered jerk who despises her. This is his one goal in life: to obtain her property. Her nephew's fury falls on an orphaned widow like Mrs. Formby. [19].

Conclusion

To conclude, unusual feminine traits like patience, sacrifice, and love cannot be found in God's male creation. The purpose of woman's creation was to serve as a physical representation of these heavenly characteristics. In Vikram Seth's writings, nearly every female character embodies these feminine traits to some degree. As a man, Vikram Seth has a thorough understanding and comprehension of complicated female characters, therefore no facet of their personality or character is left untouched or unexplained in his work. All kinds of women are shown by the artist in Seth's work; from housewives and working mothers to widows and prostitutes. Seth has also depicted a wide range of Hindu and Muslim women as well as the unpredictable roles they play as mothers or wives. In a nutshell, Seth has claimed that women are the cornerstone of civilisation and society. Seth has proved that it is the woman who binds her family together by the attributes of love, tolerance, and sacrifice. According to Saeeda Bai and Tasneem's character in Vikram Seth's novel *A Suitable Boy*, they are not suitable for leading the kind of respectable life that other women do. Even the main character, Lata, is unable to marry Kabir, her long-term beloved. Haresh as is the man she selects to be her better - half. Saeeda Bai and Tasneem, on the other hand, do not have this option of marriage. In a patriarchal culture, women are reduced to the status of victims.

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