

# Feministic Issues in “The Guide” By R. K. Narayan

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Narayan's novels collectively presented a movement for the liberation of women. In *Dark Room* we saw the revolt of Savitri after a long suppression but it ended in failure due to lack of courage and independent identity but later in the novel *Guide* we saw her effort's success in *Guide's* modern Rosie but at the same time she had within herself traditional values because Narayan always support emancipation of women within Indian tradition. Through the story and life of Rosie in the novel and also of other women characters presented in the novel shows very well the condition of women in contemporary

India. It shows injustice and prejudice made towards women and also the condition or efforts of those women who tried to breakout those conservative norms made for women which restricted their freedom. Through a critical study of the whole novel we could get true picture of women and their efforts to be free.

## Long Cherished Taboos

In contemporary Indian society or even today women /daughters are taken to be as burden. It is not accepted good notion generally to pay too much visits to the daughter after marriage. Family should be conscious before having a visit to his daughter after marriage. Family should be conscious before having a visit to his daughter after marriage. This Narayan indirectly showed to us through the description of Velan's talk to Raju.

“It's not considered proper form to pay too many visits to a son-in-law.”

After marriage, women, taken to be as an outsider rather than family members, they are bound to get married, not allowed to live life according to their wishes; which and bound to get married. Not allowed to live life according to their wishes; which notion we got in Velan's attitude towards his sister.

He was worried because his sister was not interested in marriage and thus he wants Raju to convince her for marriage because he saw in Raju a saintly soul. A woman is supposed to be good daughter an obedient sister a devoted wife and compassionate mother but she was never asked what age wants. They are just expected to say 'yes' to the decision which made for them.

## Submissiveness of Women

Raju's mother is also the victim of narrow minded and male dominated society women have the are not supposed to give any advice or if they give most of the time neglected when Raju's father buys a horse and carriage just to show off, her wife criticizes it 'she nagged him whenever he was found at home and the horse and carriage where not to proper use.’

But she was ignored as always happened in the case of women, man can do anything without any question, that may be useful of useless but women cannot.

This attitude towards women made them somewhat irritated Raju's mother also became irritated and thus often taunted his father as-“with this stock you think of buying motor – car and what not.”

This is not so only in context of her husband but she was even inferior from her son. He also neglected her advices and after the death of his father he was supposed to be the master of the house. He ruined himself first as the guide instead of taking care of his father's shop and then due to his passion for Rosie. In this passion he even allows her mother to leave the house of her husband. Though she herself was habitual of male-dominated society yet somewhere at the core of her heart she wanted that freedom for which Rosie was fighting. That is why she admired Rosie for being educated.

“You are not like us uneducated women. You will get on anywhere.”

Mother was pleased by Rosie, her work, behavior yet she did not want her in home being a dancing and married girl. She even whispered in ear of Raju that she is a real snake-woman. ' It is always women who considered to be guilty not men, mother wants her to go to her husband and said she should be bearable and should meet all problems easily with patience. It is wife's duty to handle her husband in any condition; she gave her own example and also quoted many mythological stories of Savitri and Sita.

The character of Rosie truly and prominently shows the condition of women in traditional Indian society and their revolt towards it as well. Rosie in the novel first introduced as the wife of a tourist at algeid station named macro and anthropologist. He treated Rosie as merely a thing or showpiece. He has no time for her and often neglected her wishes and happiness. This was very much clear at their first meeting with Raju in station. Rosie expressed her wish to see a cobra dance but macro said-

“we have other things to think of, Rosie. This can wait.”

Marco had no time for Rosie when she wants t go outside he merely said without turning 'please you.' He cares only for money, material pursuits and the passion he had for his work but totally neglected rather checked the passion of Rosie for dancing. When Rosie asked him for dance he said-

“Oh, you want to rival me, is that it? This is a branch of learning not street acrobatics.”

Rosie swallowed all insults and yet even thinks that; "If he was going to be so nice I wanted nothing more"

He made a statement for women-

"If a man has to have peace of mind it is best that he forget the fair sex."

Marco wants someone, doing his work dumbly without saying or asking anything.

Anything that interest her seems to irritated him. She was so much caged that when she came to the open atmosphere of peak house on Memphis Hills full of vegetation. She feels glad like a child, like a good house wife she was habitual of doing kitchen work and eats herself last. Yet she was never admired by macro Raju's remark for him seems to be quite true.

"Dear things seemed to unloosen his tongue and fire his imagination father than things that lived."

Marco was himself responsible for Raja-Rosie relationship, directly or indirectly. he let hour go and spend time with Raju when he had no time for her but got hurt when find Rosie's relationship with Raju Rosie being a typical house wife ever remind of her infidelity. Though Marco never gave her emotional relief but she often said 'after all he is my husband'. She ever felt pity for him and feel herself responsible for it. It was due to the long cherished customs rather conservative ideals made for women and even accepted by women as their destiny. When Marco come to know Raju-Rosie relationship, Rosie even ready to leave Raju and her passion for dance just to have a sound relationship with Macro but he detested and leave her there alone.

### Revolt of women and Consequences

Rosie bears a long neglected attitude of Macro. She tried a lit to adjust within the atmosphere but now it was unbearable. She revolted and fulfills her wishes through Raju; she had a relationship with Raju to find out emotional relief as well as physical satisfaction. Raju understand her and her wishes but later on he too became like Marco and made Rosie a tool to fulfill his own wishes (money).

Raju's attitude towards her was too admiring her physical beauty than her emotions. He tried to woo her though he knew very well that she is a married woman. He Raju gave her sympathy but also take advantage of her plight. Once while consoling her he let his hand travel and felt the softness of her ear and pushed his finger-through the locks of her hair. But his double standard seem very clear when he said-

"I would't let my wife live in a hotel room all by herself if I had to remain on duty on a hill-top."

Raju after some time when she came to his house began to think her just a mean to acquire more and more money. He cried -"she is a gold-mine." He began to think her his property. This time somewhere their relationship was going down due to Raja's money through her. What still joints

them was Raja's need for money; he also began to think about her somewhat in the manner nacre used to think about her. On the other hand for Rosie money does not matter, she herself said-"I love jasmine not the cherub that comes with it?"

Raju treated her as his property. He said,

"I resented anyone wanting to make a direct approach to her. She was my property".

Raju neglected her wishes to enjoy simple joys of life in name of fulfilling her dreams to become a dancer. When Rosie said, "I am tired of this circus existence"

He replied, it's your own choice. Rosie tried her best to be loyal in all her relation but the expectation of males from her was too high to meet with her efforts. Thus everyone blamed her but she never loses herself and was determined to overcome the barriers. When Raju got arrested in case of forgery she tried her best to help him, appointed best lawyer. Dance o stage unwillingly to save Raju because it needs money.

When Rosie made him known of his harsh reality; the same Rosie seems to him a mistake, a trouble. when Raju go to jail Rosie leave everything and go to madras; when Raju come to know this he eagerly wanted to know whether she had returned to Marco or not. If yes then he will lose her and Marco won as if she was a trophy

### Attitude of Society

Her background too was responsible of her present plight and also showed attitude of society towards women. She was a divas and thus society considered them as public women. They were not considered respectable. She got married through an advertisement-

"Wanted an educated, good-looking girl to marry a rich bachelor of academic interest, no caste restrictions; good looks and university degree essential."

This advertisement clearly showed that Marco did not want a wife or life – partner but a showpiece to be shown in society according to his status. When Rosie went to Raju's house after separation with Marco; society around there asked many questions, named her as snake women but everyone neglected the fault of Raju who himself involved with her Raja's uncle also bullies her; talk to her in abusive language. Raju, s mother said to her-

"Are you now satisfied with your handiwork, you she devil, you demon."

The same society who did not accept her being a dancing girl enjoyed her dance immensely when she became a popular dancer with name Nailing Raju changed her name because in India this name Rosie Seem to be western modern and not respectable;

Rosie faces a lot of neglect ion and suffered due to taboos made by society for women. She tried her best to adjust with

them. But as Narayan presented her a confident girl who knows well her right place and a leader to give all women a message to be loyal, obedient but not the slaves; she after a considerable time revolted against each and every rotten mentality of society made for women. She left Marco due to his expectation from her to behave like a dumb domestic servant and even did not bear the self-righteous and over possessing attitude of Raju as if she was a thing, she protested to find her own independent identity, with which women were devoid of from centuries. though she also bear the hard reaction of society towards her revolt of long cherished taboos but she was determined to be free and thus never shook or take her step back and finally achieved that freedom. Though she cost much for that but her freedom really worth it. She sets an example for all women with no courage to revolt. Thus R. K. Aryan's novel the Guide fully and clearly shows the restricted condition of women in traditional society and also opposition of society towards the women who wants to break these conditions and in this way full of feministic ideas.