

# 1 focuses on the subjection of women

[Art & Culture](#)



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

1 Introduction This paper aims to analyze the patriarchal system of the society through a feminist perspective.

The study focuses on the subjection of women to the male members in their houses. Also, it focuses on the female sufferings due to the man-made traditions that are forcefully imposed on the female body. To interpret the subjection of women to men, Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *The Bride* (1983) have been consulted. This research paper tries to explore the issues of marriage, unwillingness of bride, subjugation of women, cultural conflicts, traditional boundaries and suppression of females due to which they are being subjected by men.

2. Significance of the Study This research adds into the existing researches of matrimonial issues in Pakistan along with the subjection of female figure. It contributes in rendering help to the new researchers in exploring the ways of subjection of women. Moreover, this research interprets Pakistan and especially the tribal areas and tribesmen in the novel written by Pakistani English writer in which females are supposed to stay mute in the discussion of their own marriage.

In this way, this research lends a great help to the new researchers working on the current or past situation of women in Pakistan that how the Pakistani society is harsh, oppressive, repressive for women and justified in the name of cultural traditions and religion. The scope of this study is vast because the exploitation of women is common not just in Pakistan but also in most of the societies.

### 3. Research Objectives

The objective of this research is to analyze the theory of subjection and its

link to the plight of subjected women in Pakistani society. It aims to trace out the plight of women under the authority of patriarchal society. This study aims at exposing the issues of marriage, cultural conflicts and struggle for identity, subjugation and suppression of women portrayed by Sidhwa.

Further, it analyzes the status of women in two different cultures. The present research aims to emphasize the impact of sexual repression faced by female bodies in the novel *The Bride* (1983). 4.

Research Questions The research tries to answer the following

questions:

- How women are being subjected by both male and female in *The Bride* (1983)?
- How the subjection of women is a universal issue?
- How women's condition becomes miserable due to their subjection?

5. Literature Review This chapter of the research presents a review of the research studies on *The Bride* (1983). It encloses a critique of the related works that are kept under consideration while carrying out this research study. The review of all these works owe a great contribution in the analysis of research topic and presenting an interpretation of the data. A *Study of the Stepfather and the Stranger* (1990) by Cynthia Abrioux analyses the images of the stepfather and the stranger in *The Pakistani Bride*.

The analysis of these images is brought together in the interpretation of the novel as a symbol of Pakistani society where the stepfather, the strangers and Zaitoon represent different parties in Pakistani politics. Her article sees the novel as an allegory of early Pakistan with Qasim representing the British colonizers as well as the corrupt political leaders of the new Pakistan and Zaitoon representing the country. Also, she states that the text has a

<https://assignbuster.com/1-focuses-on-the-subjection-of-women/>

tendency to skim over the top of the novel and not delving deeply enough into the material.

The article is essentialist in that it focuses on “feminine as positive and the masculine as negative” (Abrioux 4). Lata Mishra’s “Gender, Culture and Nation in Bapsi Sidhwa’s novel *The Pakistani Bride*” (2003) presents the ideas of femininity and masculinity which holds a very strong position in the building and rebuilding of a nation. Mishra throws light on the fact that women are often thought to be an object of sexuality and are also considered as an object to fulfill the needs of their male partners. They are used as a tool to increase the progeny. Moreover, they must show their movements according to the desires of their men.

In this work patriarchy is criticized severely and different stereotypes which are spread in our society related to women that they must be confined to the boundaries which are imposed upon them by using the names of social parameters and in this way women are exploited in one way or the other. Furthermore, she elaborates the relationship of power and strength via violent imposition of force by representing it in various forms and shapes. She narrates, “Sidhwa’s narratives and characters not only reveal male dominance but also show the sense of revolt from women and deal with the issues relevant to women such as patriarchy, stereotyping, exploitation, sexual objectification, violence and oppression” (Mishra 4). Sofia Dildar Alvi, Abdul Baseer and Sonia Zahoor in “*The Pakistani Bride; An Alternative Viewpoint in Pakistani Literature*” (2007) shared their views about gender based society and male dominance over women.

They highlighted the aspect of women's lives that is usually dismissed and ignored in almost all the cases. Women are thought to be only puppets in the hands of their male community who have no specific identity and act exactly according to the gestures made by their male partners. In the above mentioned article the researchers focus on the struggle of women for maintaining a safe and well recognized identity along with performing all the household activities and fulfillment of the desires and wishes of their men. Although some of them bear a lot of physical and mental troubles and hardships but still they are not ready to give up the quest for their real identification. Researchers state: Bapsi Sidhwa tells with a very strong interest and involvement about the condition of women in Pakistani gender biased class structure and pushed the concept of the denial of women which has a significant place in the Pakistani national and domestic grounds and presented such female characters who resist the limitations of patriarchal definition of women by showing them as strong to run the daily affairs of life without spoiling their identity. (Dildar 3).

6. Research Methodology The theoretical background of this research draws upon the theory of feminism. "The Subjection of Women" (1869) is an essay by John Stuart Mill. Mill is best known for his work on the rights of individual, work on tyranny of majority and work on women's rights.

In Mill's time, woman was considered a subject to the whims of her husband or father. The inequality was due to the social norms which said women were less able than men, both physically and mentally. As subjection of women is considered universal there is no proof to refute this. The subjugation of

women divides human race into two, giving male the full authority to control the other race i. e.

female. “ In Subjection of Women” (1869), Mill incorporates his opinion as: In contrast with this, the system of the subjection of women (1) is universal; there are no vivid examples of prosperous rejections of it; and (2) is immediately gratifying to half of the human race, namely the male half: ‘ The clodhopper exercises. . . . his share of the power equally with the highest nobleman’.

And it has a third feature that favours its survival over absolute monarchy, namely. (6) A person who wishes to exert his complete desire can fulfill his desire by practicing his power upon those who are close to him. In other words, for a male to express his ultimate authority over a female, he must seek those who are common to him. An example we find in *The Bride* (1983) is of the relationship of father and daughter. Qasim being a father shows his authority by controlling her major decision of her life, for example marriage. As a father, he subjugates his daughter since she is the only female personality in his life who is close to him.

Hence Mills stance of. . . Everyone who desires power desires it most over those who are nearest to him, with whom his life is passed, with whom he has most concerns in common and in whom any independence of his authority is oftenest likely to interfere with his individual preferences.

. . . Also, the possessors of the power provided by the subjection of women are better placed than any absolute monarch to prevent any uprising against the system (Mill 7). illustrates the subjection of women The study <https://assignbuster.com/1-focuses-on-the-subjection-of-women/>

incorporates Mill's argument on subjection of women and the individual benefits that one may get after gaining freedom from the shackles of manly control. Through the various female characters and subjugation by their husbands