

Pegasus

The Literary Magazine



Volume-1, Issue-2

Women of Doon



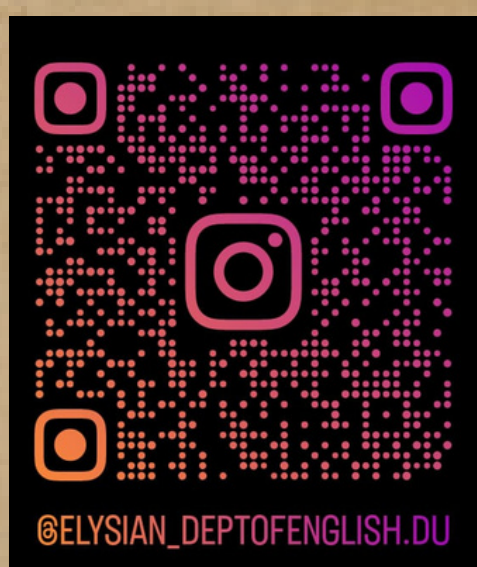
Women of Doon



Women of Doon



Women of Doon



Follow us on Instagram!
[@elysian_deptofenglish.du](https://www.instagram.com/elysian_deptofenglish.du)

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Prose: Backbone | 7 |
| 2. Interview: Prof. Surekha Dangwal (Vice-Chancellor) | 10 |
| 3. Film Review: Water..... | 20 |
| 4. Poetry: Perfect Girl | 22 |
| 5. Interview: IAS Radha Raturi (Additional Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand) | 23 |
| 6. Film Review: Raazi | 29 |
| 7. It is not me, but the world is at fault | 31 |
| 8. Book Review: Her body & other parties | 33 |
| 9. Interview: Vaidya Shikha Prasad | 34 |
| 10. Prose: चार औरतें | 37 |
| 11. Poetry: Her | 38 |
| 12. Film Review: Bandit Queen | 39 |
| 13. Poetry: She | 41 |
| 14. संवाद: कामना चंद्रा | 42 |
| 15. Film Review: English Vinglish | 45 |
| 16. संवाद: पिंकी जी | 46 |
| 17. Poetry: She | 48 |
| 18. Poetry: स्त्रीत्व: मेरा और तुम्हारा | 50 |
| 19. Extract taken from Magazine 'Science Reporter' Eminent Women Scientist Relive their Journey in Science | 51 |
| 20. Photo Wall | 53 |

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| The Credits | 57 |
|-------------------|----|

Backbone

Women in space, women in the kitchen, women in the highest battlefields, women in the grain fields. Even though women are everywhere, we still struggle to be recognised for our abilities and not by the typical stereotypes society has created for us.

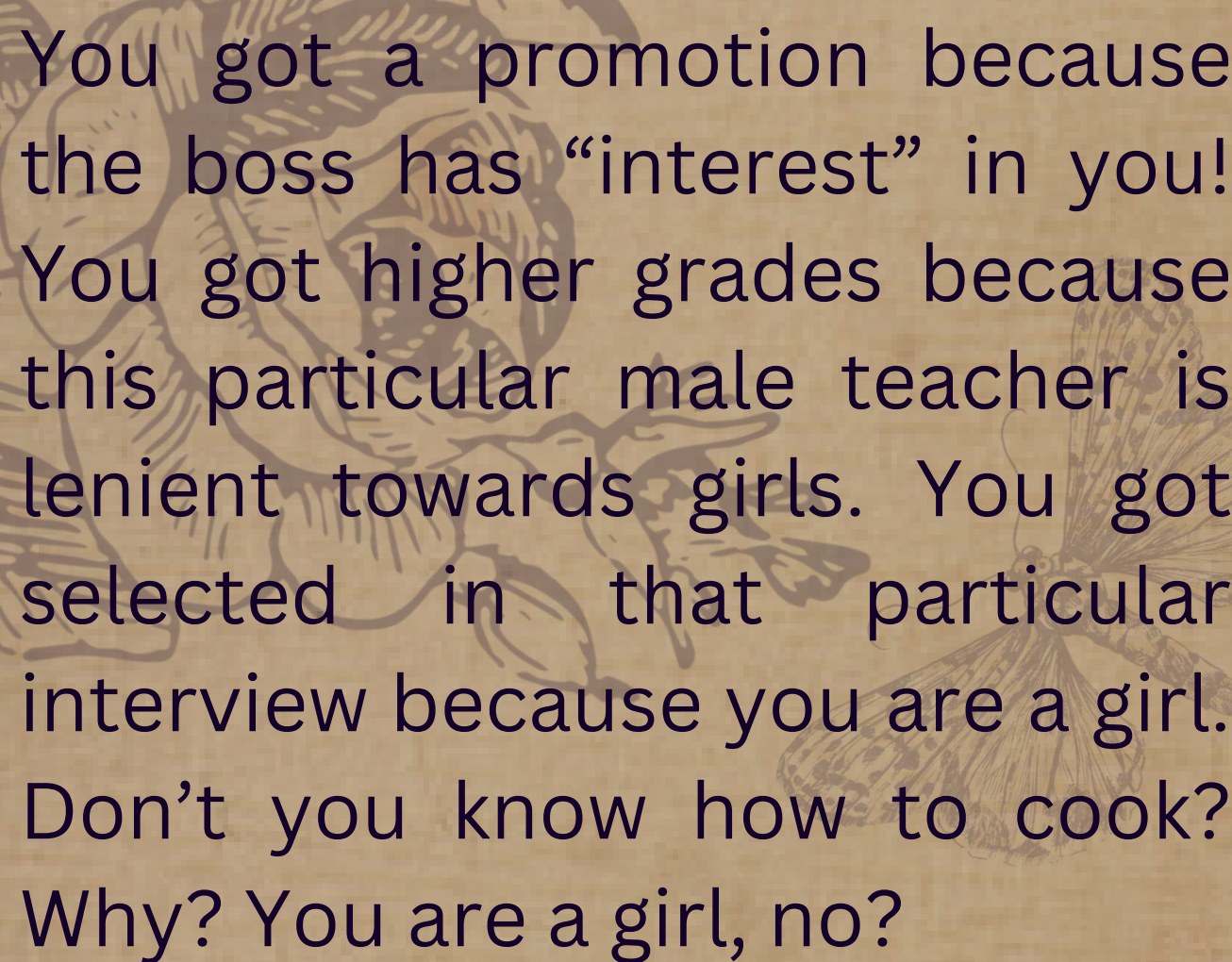
Women, whose condition depicts the socio-economic condition of an entire nation. Women, whose safety depicts how safe a place is. Women, who play a major part not only in the households but also stand today in the forefront borders of the country, fly fighter planes and do the unbelievable.

When the topic of women arises, the first thought that comes to my mind is the question of freedom. How much freedom do women actually enjoy in our independent countries and in the world as a whole?

From removing women from the entire educational setup in Afghanistan to forcing a girl who just turned eligible for marriage to get married because, of course, the earlier, the better (I hope you understand the pun intended)

witnessing local aunties gossiping about some XYZ's daughter who ran away with someone (even in this case, I will never understand why only a girl becomes a gossip thing and not the boy in most cases.)

"she was unmarried and got pregnant" is still a major thing in our society, but why is consent still not talked about as much? Whether she gave her consent or not is still not a big deal, but why she was with that guy, becomes all her mistake.



You got a promotion because the boss has “interest” in you! You got higher grades because this particular male teacher is lenient towards girls. You got selected in that particular interview because you are a girl. Don't you know how to cook? Why? You are a girl, no?

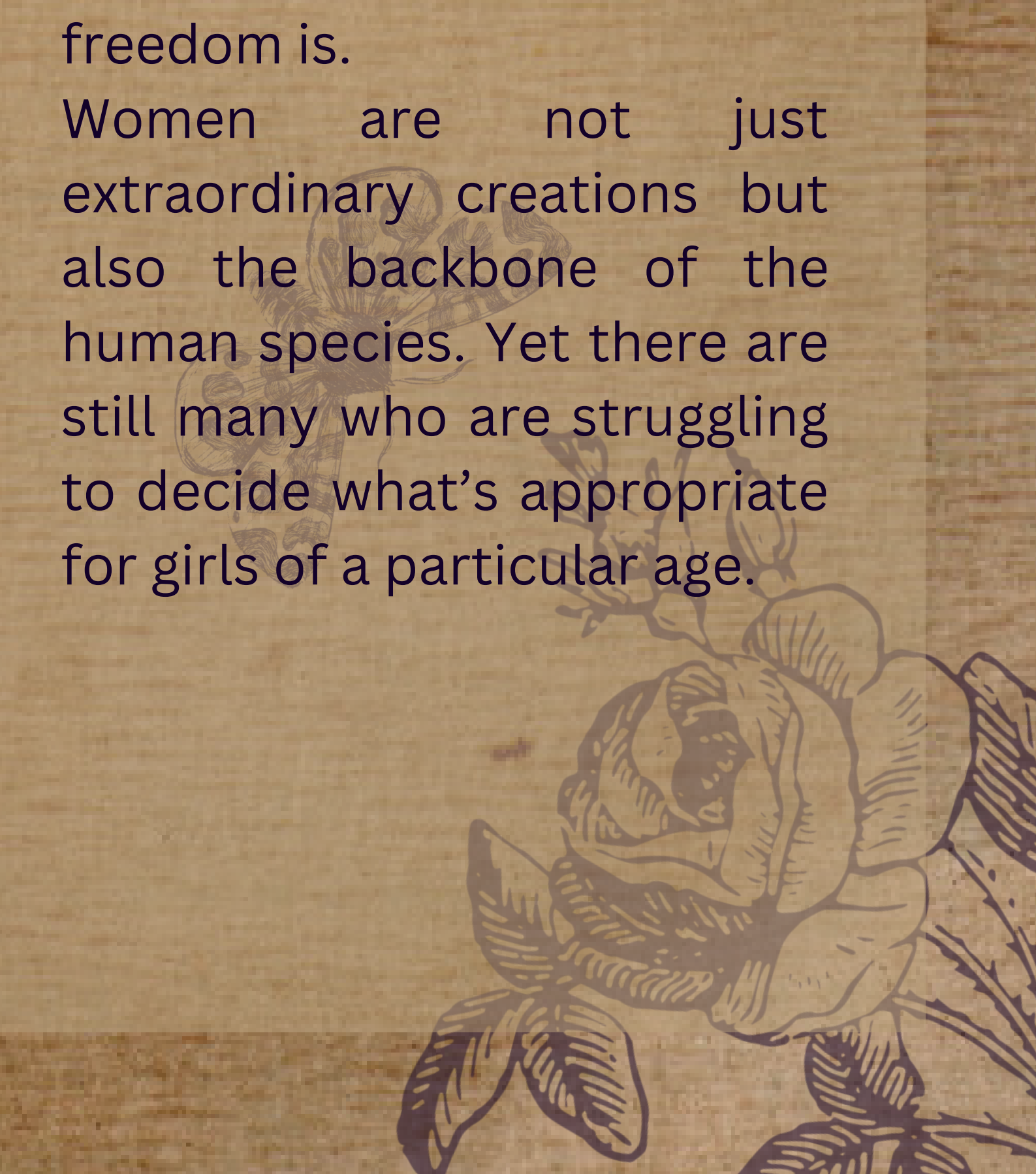
We become victims of typical stereotypes every day in some form. We have given women space in workplaces and factories, but still, many of them struggle to find their identity in their own homes.

How many stereotypes do we need to break?

Even after holding the banners of “women are great”, we are still in the same place. Teasing a school girl because she doesn't fit into some skinny clothes (thanks to several campaigns by several clothing brands to demotivate body shaming). Teaching young girls about shame around their own bodies and how to cover it properly. Watching some creeps hoot when a woman passes by(we have normalised literally everything). There are many examples to count.

We women, many times, knowingly or unknowingly become part of this toxicity in our society towards other women, sometimes in order to appear “different” or maybe sometimes to appear better than others. If you don't know how to, try to remember when was the last time you stood up for any girl who was being talked about in a wrong way in your locality or maybe even in your home. I hope it's not hard to remember. We still struggle to find our freedom to choose and to do whatever we wish. And I don't know how long the road to reach our true freedom is.

Women are not just extraordinary creations but also the backbone of the human species. Yet there are still many who are struggling to decide what's appropriate for girls of a particular age.



Even after it has become quite clear that rapes or any other crime against women do not happen because of what they wear, yet there are many who believe otherwise.

There are many who, in the name of being protective men around us, make us look small and incapable of taking care of ourselves.

So this women's day, let's just not praise women above and beyond everything, but rather work towards creating a healthy environment for women, for them to express and explore the world like men do, without continuously checking the clock when it's time to return home or worrying about their own safety.



Garima

Bachelor of Mathematics

Semester 3 year 2

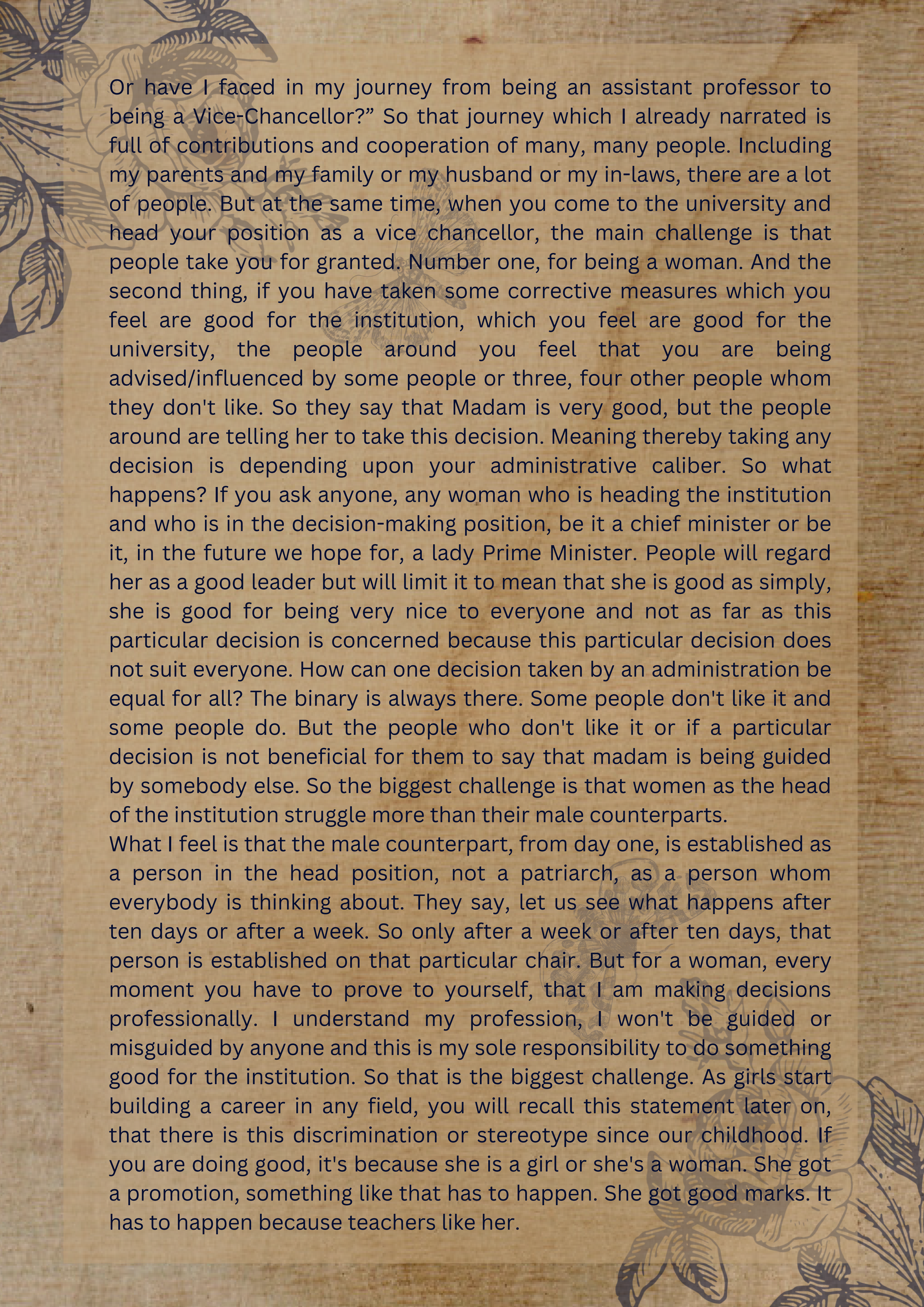


An Interview with

Prof. Surekha Dangwal (Vice-chancellor, Doon University)

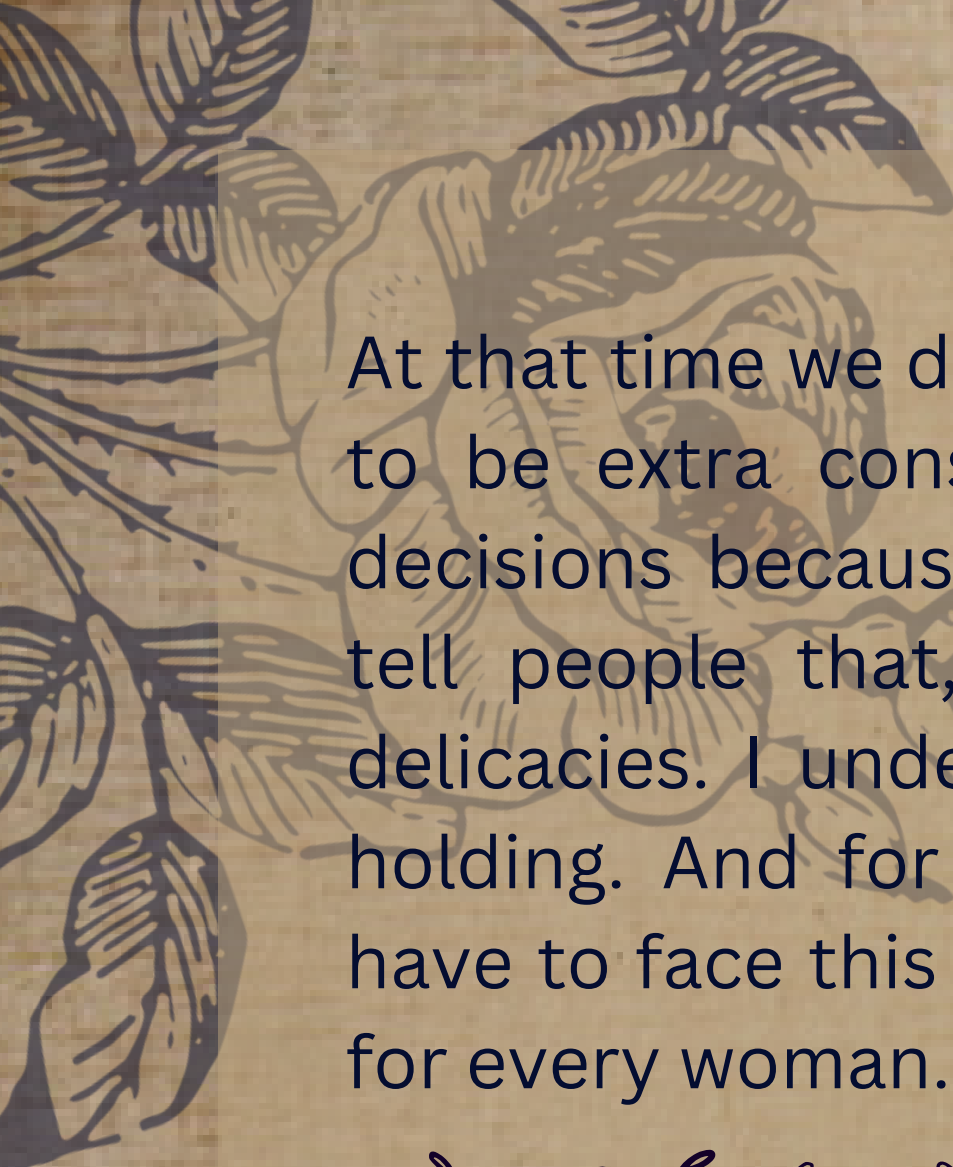
- If you trace your flourishing career in the field of education, you've had a long history with HNBGU Central University and then you came to Doon University. So what challenges did you face and are still facing and how do you reciprocate to those challenges?

Fortunately, my journey has been a journey of contribution and cooperation with many people. That includes my male colleagues, my head of the departments, various Vice Chancellors, and my female colleagues as well. The contribution is of the society. If you consider me, a woman heading an institution, we have to see which society I am coming from. It's a society of the Hill region, people there are living in very tough geophysical features with landslides, floods, and a lot of other things. But at the same time, their society is very connected. So in the very small town of Srinagar where I came from, a lot of people, some of whom I can name and some of them are without a name in my memory. They have been there to encourage me since my childhood. If I got the first position, and they saw me, going to the market or anything as such, they used to tell me that "it is fantastic, congratulations. You are such a brilliant girl". Or "you are such a brilliant speaker". Be it in extracurricular activities or the field of academics. So, the whole society was there and I am thankful for society. But at the same time, to answer the second part of the question. "What challenges do I face being the Vice Chancellor?"



Or have I faced in my journey from being an assistant professor to being a Vice-Chancellor?" So that journey which I already narrated is full of contributions and cooperation of many, many people. Including my parents and my family or my husband or my in-laws, there are a lot of people. But at the same time, when you come to the university and head your position as a vice chancellor, the main challenge is that people take you for granted. Number one, for being a woman. And the second thing, if you have taken some corrective measures which you feel are good for the institution, which you feel are good for the university, the people around you feel that you are being advised/influenced by some people or three, four other people whom they don't like. So they say that Madam is very good, but the people around are telling her to take this decision. Meaning thereby taking any decision is depending upon your administrative caliber. So what happens? If you ask anyone, any woman who is heading the institution and who is in the decision-making position, be it a chief minister or be it, in the future we hope for, a lady Prime Minister. People will regard her as a good leader but will limit it to mean that she is good as simply, she is good for being very nice to everyone and not as far as this particular decision is concerned because this particular decision does not suit everyone. How can one decision taken by an administration be equal for all? The binary is always there. Some people don't like it and some people do. But the people who don't like it or if a particular decision is not beneficial for them to say that madam is being guided by somebody else. So the biggest challenge is that women as the head of the institution struggle more than their male counterparts.

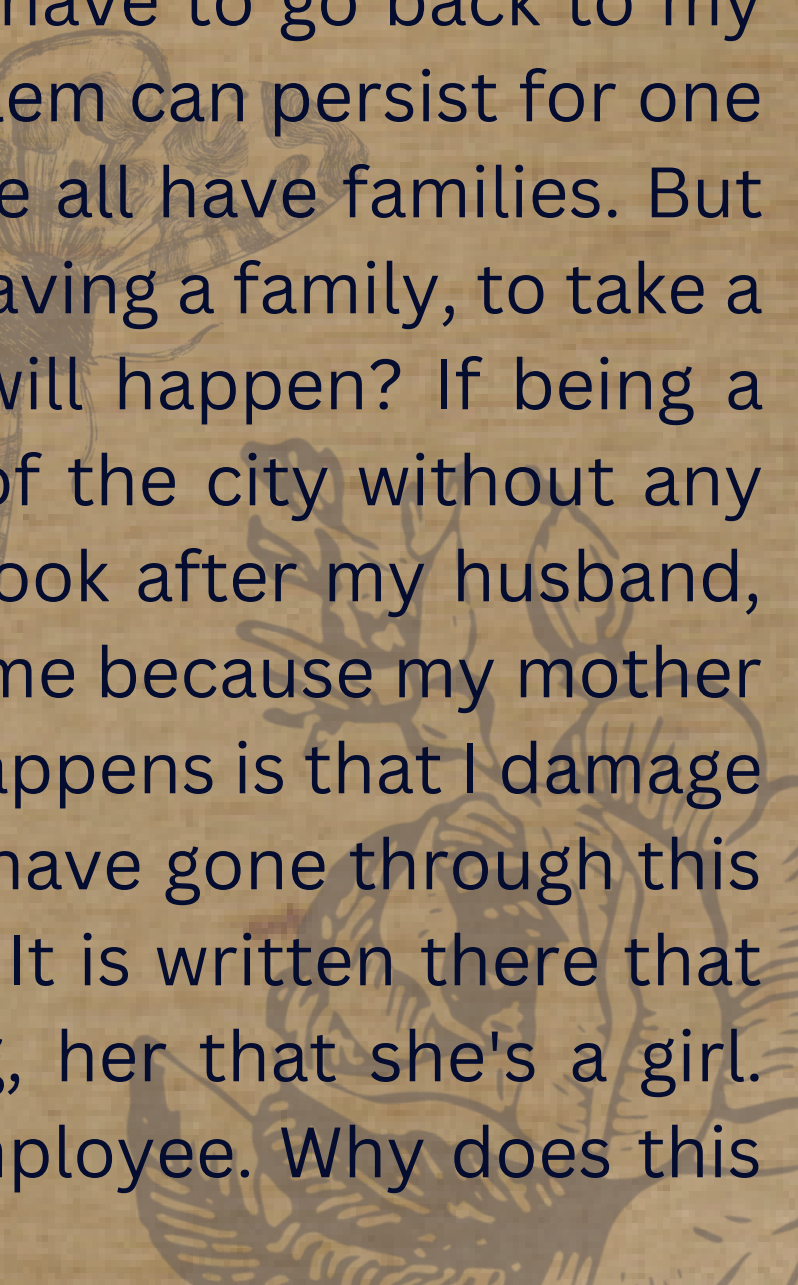
What I feel is that the male counterpart, from day one, is established as a person in the head position, not a patriarch, as a person whom everybody is thinking about. They say, let us see what happens after ten days or after a week. So only after a week or after ten days, that person is established on that particular chair. But for a woman, every moment you have to prove to yourself, that I am making decisions professionally. I understand my profession, I won't be guided or misguided by anyone and this is my sole responsibility to do something good for the institution. So that is the biggest challenge. As girls start building a career in any field, you will recall this statement later on, that there is this discrimination or stereotype since our childhood. If you are doing good, it's because she is a girl or she's a woman. She got a promotion, something like that has to happen. She got good marks. It has to happen because teachers like her.

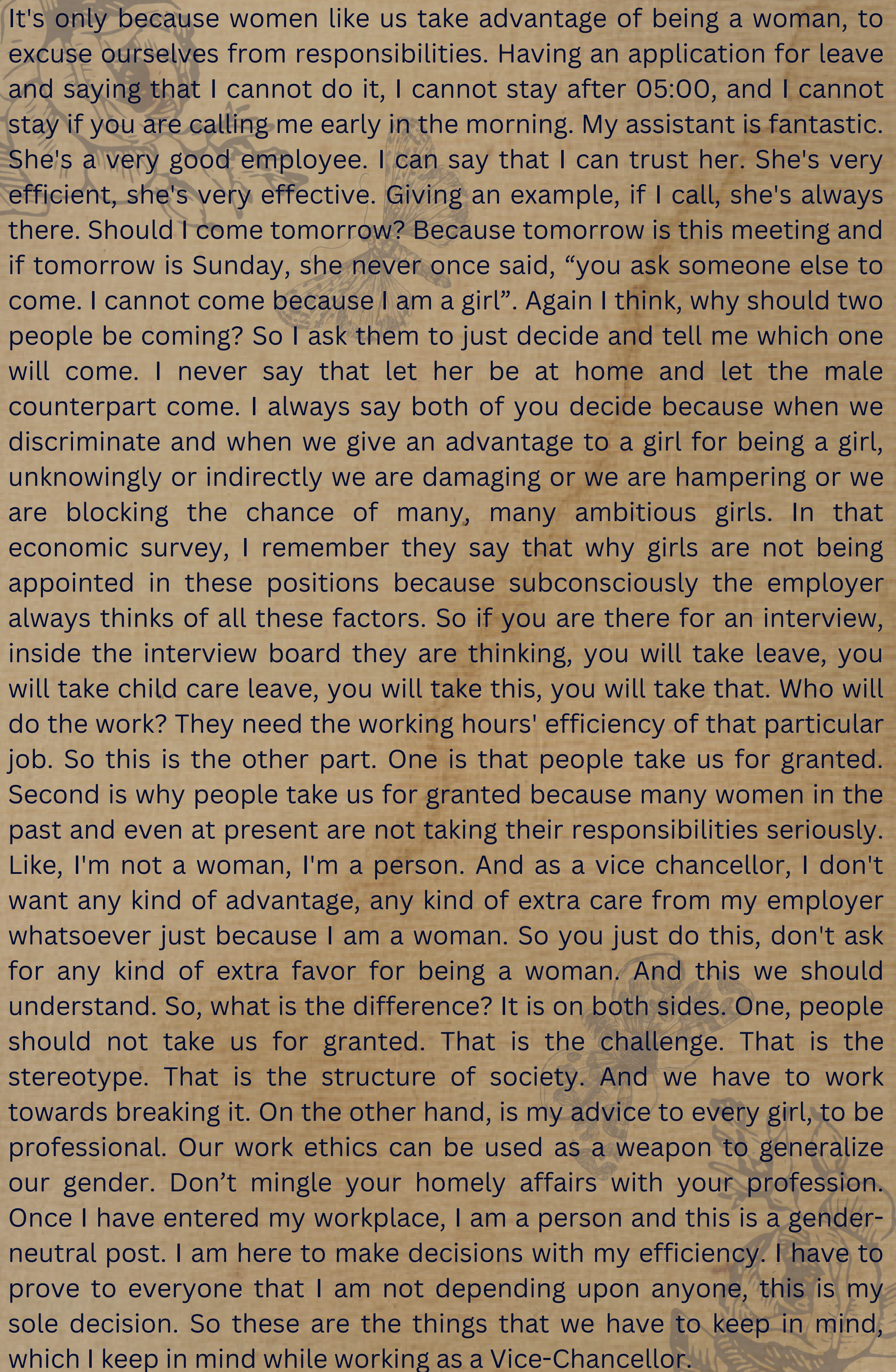


At that time we did not realize it, but now we realize that a woman, has to be extra conscious and she has to be extra careful in making decisions because she needs everybody's support and she needs to tell people that, yes, I am a sole identity and I understand the delicacies. I understand the importance of this particular chair I am holding. And for my honesty, for my commitment, for everything, I have to face this challenge. Not individually for me, this is a challenge for every woman.

You've already answered my next question, but what differences do you think you would have seen, had you been a male sitting in the same position?

The answer to this, there is the one which I have already elaborated on. Then, when I think about it, are there any advantages to being a woman? That question is also very complicated for me. I always advised my female faculty members, wherever I was, being head of the department at HNB Garhwal University, being dean of student welfare I also advised my female students, about what we needed to do. It is one thing they take us for granted. It's another thing that they think of us as being advised or misguided by other people or by the people around us. That is the problem with my first question. The second question, which is very important for me, had it been a male Vice Chancellor what would be the difference? The difference is that it is a mistake or you can say it is the fault of a woman when she does not take her post professionally. I always tell my gardeners, my faculty members, and everyone, that what you need to do is to be professional. For example, you are here and you tell your HOD all the time that you have to go back to my home, I have to cook, I have to see my mom, the problem can persist for one day, two days, one week, one month or so because we all have families. But every time you use the excuse of being a female and having a family, to take a leave, to take a half-holiday, for this or that. What will happen? If being a woman, I miss a lot of my working days and go out of the city without any work, just because I have to look after my children, look after my husband, look after my in-laws, and tell everyone I don't have time because my mother in law is not keeping well and all such excuses. What happens is that I damage or minimize the chances of young girls in the future I have gone through this economic survey of the government of India in 2018. It is written there that the employer always keeps in mind while employing, her that she's a girl. They debate over the question of hiring her as an employee. Why does this conflict occur in the mind of the employer?

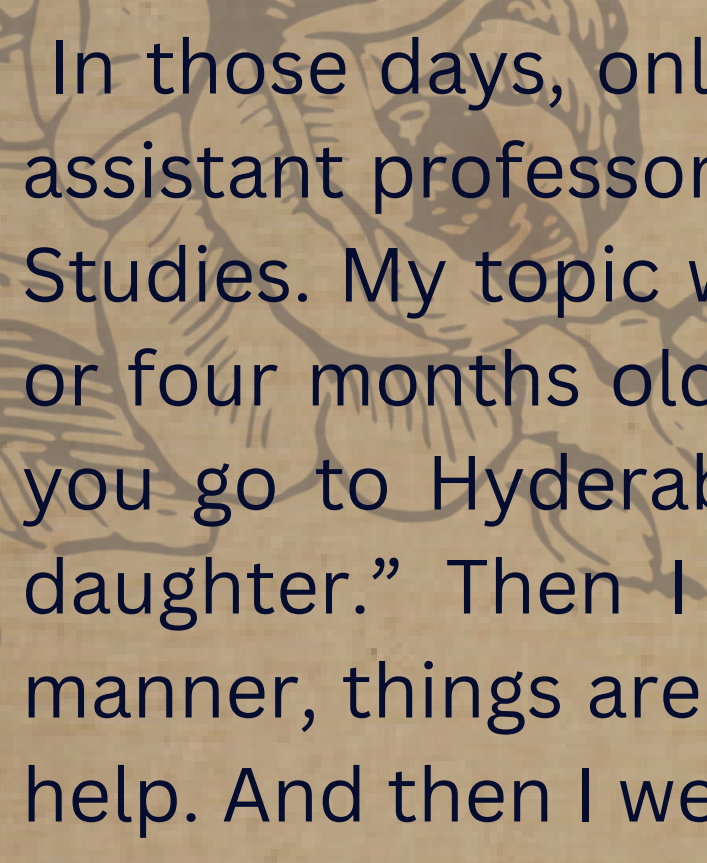


The background of the page is a light beige, textured surface. It is decorated with several dark blue or black line-art illustrations. In the top left corner, there are large, detailed drawings of roses and leaves. A butterfly is depicted in the center of the page, its wings spread. In the bottom right corner, there are more floral illustrations, including what appears to be a large rose and some leaves. The text is centered on the page and is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

It's only because women like us take advantage of being a woman, to excuse ourselves from responsibilities. Having an application for leave and saying that I cannot do it, I cannot stay after 05:00, and I cannot stay if you are calling me early in the morning. My assistant is fantastic. She's a very good employee. I can say that I can trust her. She's very efficient, she's very effective. Giving an example, if I call, she's always there. Should I come tomorrow? Because tomorrow is this meeting and if tomorrow is Sunday, she never once said, "you ask someone else to come. I cannot come because I am a girl". Again I think, why should two people be coming? So I ask them to just decide and tell me which one will come. I never say that let her be at home and let the male counterpart come. I always say both of you decide because when we discriminate and when we give an advantage to a girl for being a girl, unknowingly or indirectly we are damaging or we are hampering or we are blocking the chance of many, many ambitious girls. In that economic survey, I remember they say that why girls are not being appointed in these positions because subconsciously the employer always thinks of all these factors. So if you are there for an interview, inside the interview board they are thinking, you will take leave, you will take child care leave, you will take this, you will take that. Who will do the work? They need the working hours' efficiency of that particular job. So this is the other part. One is that people take us for granted. Second is why people take us for granted because many women in the past and even at present are not taking their responsibilities seriously. Like, I'm not a woman, I'm a person. And as a vice chancellor, I don't want any kind of advantage, any kind of extra care from my employer whatsoever just because I am a woman. So you just do this, don't ask for any kind of extra favor for being a woman. And this we should understand. So, what is the difference? It is on both sides. One, people should not take us for granted. That is the challenge. That is the stereotype. That is the structure of society. And we have to work towards breaking it. On the other hand, is my advice to every girl, to be professional. Our work ethics can be used as a weapon to generalize our gender. Don't mingle your homely affairs with your profession. Once I have entered my workplace, I am a person and this is a gender-neutral post. I am here to make decisions with my efficiency. I have to prove to everyone that I am not depending upon anyone, this is my sole decision. So these are the things that we have to keep in mind, which I keep in mind while working as a Vice-Chancellor.

Being the Vice Chancellor is not an easy job and at the same time managing your family is also not an easy job. So how do you juggle your personal and professional life?

- Yes, that is another very interesting question that I feel about in a very different way. A relationship with your children, with your husband, with your in-laws, everyone needs a lot of investment. And if in the initial years, you feel that these are the relationships which you have to nurture, which you have to give food and oxygen and everything, and you especially take certain years to spend better quality time, especially after marriage. Because I was already an assistant professor before my marriage. So I know how much time I had to give to my job and then to the family and all that. I feel it now, which I did not feel at that point, but I did something very great. It was there, it was my nature, I think. But now I look back and think of it. My daughter is older than you, she's doing her Ph.D. in Stockholm, and she is now at the age where I think of her marriage. Because marriage I feel is something that we have to do, it is the Indian families which are the source of energy for your future. So don't be misguided by this, I can live alone and all. So when I asked her to see a guy, she told me, this is the learning from my daughter, the answer to this question. She said no. She says this is not a proper time, I cannot talk to this guy. The guy is brilliant, but I cannot talk to him right now. I ask her why, and she tells me my mind is occupied but in my generation, there was no word like my mind is occupied here, so I cannot get married, so I cannot talk to this guy. We used to be multitaskers, like, okay, marriage? okay! we can come. So I was a little bit irritated and I asked, what is this mind-occupied thing for you? Every time these boys are not as per your list of qualifications and after six months when somebody has suggested someone good to me; you are telling me everything is fine, but my mind is occupied. What is this? Then she narrated and she said that "a marriage or a relationship where I cannot give time, what I will do out of it? And then you will suffer. I will suffer as well but you will also suffer more. And then you will be asking, why am I not spending time with them, why am I not giving them quality time? What is this research all about, just do it later on". So this is the answer she gave me, that, "I need a lot of quality time to nurture one particular relationship, which I don't have. So how can I agree to this? I cannot do anything right now." And then I started thinking that in the initial year of my career when I got married after it, I did my Ph.D. after marriage.



In those days, only an M.Phil qualification was needed to become an assistant professor. And I went to Hyderabad, the Center for American Studies. My topic was American literature. My daughter was just three or four months old. And my husband and my mother-in-law said, “no! you go to Hyderabad for two months and we will take care of your daughter.” Then I realized that whatever I have given, in whatever manner, things are coming back, back to you and everybody is there to help. And then I went to Germany when my daughter was just six-seven years old. Those days, my father-in-law was on the job. They had their own family. But my mother-in-law, told me, “you go for three months or four months, of course, I'm coming”. And then she was there for these four long months with my daughter.

What I mean by this is that I feel balancing relationships, good relations with your in-laws, with your husband, with your children, and then working again, efficiently, and professionally in your job is somewhat difficult. But if you understand this, once you spend quality time and give them that investment, trust is formed. And once that trust is developed, everything is eased out. it's like when we are in trouble, you are there. When you are in trouble, we are here to assist. So it is all a cooperation and contribution of the whole family. And now, today, being a vice-chancellor still my parents-in-law, are here in the VC residence with me for the last couple of months. and I feel like it's my son. He's younger like he's 19-20 years old. So he'll be coming during Holi to celebrate. Because I know that his grandparents are here. So even if I don't have time to spend with him, they'll be with him. So this balancing is not an individual task. I should say that everything I can do, is a result of a collective effort. So it is fine-tuned and fine balancing and I'm happy because that means there is no tension as far as family/friends are concerned. This is how I can manage this balance. I feel that all these things come from a family. If you asked me for the contribution, it was the initial years. When you look at it today, I'm not giving them time at all, but in the initial years, maybe I had given them quality time and the trust is developed and so they are always there as somebody to fall back upon and they are there to solve my problems.



You have been in the education system for the last 35 years, first as a professor and now as a vice-chancellor. What kind of changes have you seen concerning the participation of females in the university and how do you feel the sphere has changed in these decades?

- I am very, very hopeful for my future generation. And I always feel that there are very confident daughters now in the forefront. They are confident in many ways. One is that, for me, in my generation, 90% of the female working force was the first generation working women. Or very less. I think maybe less than 10%. Regarding this, I have not seen the studies, so I don't know. But what I can gather from my friends, their families, my in-laws' families, and my sister-in-law's family, I feel that most of us were the first generation. So in the first generation, the confidence level was not so high, because we were in a transitional phase. The in-laws, even the parents, did not have any idea of how to manage when a woman or the girl is out of the home in the late hours. She is managing, that is her part. But how the family members are managing her, whether they are understanding of her situation, that's another story. I will tell you about one girl. Preeti Oswal is in chemistry. She got her postdoc fellowship in the USA. She'll be going, I think, in June or July, after completing her Ph.D.. Now, her husband is in the police or paramilitary forces (I'm not sure). But, just see, the husband, with a small daughter, is there sometimes at 09:00p.m in the lab to take her back home? And today she got such a good number of publications and she got selected for such a high scholarship in the USA and all that. So then I understand what kind of generation it is. You are getting support from the family. I am a fortunate one, I got it from my family. But the modern girl, she's so confident right from the beginning. See for me, it is a great thing that I'm getting support, for you, it is your right. You tell your families that you have to give me support, you have to support me. Because your working style is so professional that you are not the byproduct of something like discrimination. If it is a girl and boy and we talk about their education, both are going to be out late and both are allowed to go to the late night hours. In the background though, Indian society is always there. But still, I feel that modern girls are so well equipped. You are technocratic. You know how to do things in a minimum of hours.

This is the change I see, I see the change even between my daughter and my generation. You people can narrate things in a better way. You can develop your discourse, you can justify things from a very right perspective

. For me, for example, if we have five, six people in our close relationship, I feel the need to attend to everyone. For you, if you don't know a person and his or her contribution in your life, you hardly care that she is also the sister of my father. You don't waste lots of hours in meeting and greeting someone just because they are close to your parents. The modern generation, the relatives, to whom they are giving time is a quality relative. They say Yes, I like them because of the way they talk, the way they ask about my studies. The way they understand me. The way they don't ask me anything nonsensical. For them, blood relationship is not that important. For them, a relationship is important only if it is a healthy relationship, if they feel that they aren't hurt after talking to them, and don't come under stress after having a conversation with them. You really like them. You choose them in your close vicinity and you spare time to visit them. You spare time to spend. For me, it was a compulsion. And I carried away that kind of compulsion. I have to visit them because they are close to my parents. I couldn't say that I won't go to his home, because my dad would be annoyed. This difference I find very logical that they respect healthy families. Most of the people are telling today's children they don't care about the family, they do this, they are extra modern. But for me the example is that you people always see the qualitative relations, where both can contribute. And your profession is not by chance. For you it is meticulously garnished by you through your continuous hard work. The students I see and I have taught, I find them very confident. I found them doing smart studies, smart work. Especially girls, they are now in the second working generation or third working generation. If your mother is a college graduate, your confidence is different. If your mother is a working woman, your confidence is very different. So slowly in India it is very visible, as far as women empowerment is concerned, as far as female students are concerned, their participative management is concerned and their participative force is concerned. Sometimes I feel a bit biased. Because when we have to do NACA accreditation and when I see who are the best, I find a lot of female faculty. And then I find that they are working with me so closely but all of them are female. So either I rely upon them, either I appreciate their professionalism and I appreciate their dedication, their commitment. Maybe because I am the witness of the long journey of this female struggle in the career and I saw my mother and I can take examples from my own life, I can take examples from my sister's life. The first working woman in the family. So I feel that now the girls are taking it on their toes and they have folded their sleeves and they are there with open arms. They are not taking the question of career as an addition to marriage. They say, "I'll get married, but first I will see my career" and that is always advisable as well in today's world, that you should have your economic independence. So I see a lot of hope and a lot of optimism there to see the girls at the forefront. We are always there. You know, all the medals at last year's convocation 75% of the medals were won by girls. So I'm hopeful about the confidence.



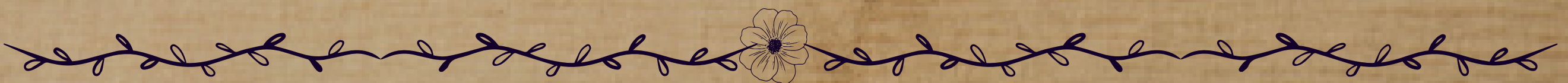
You are an inspiration not only for the women in our university but also to many outsiders. How do you feel about that?

I like it. I will just cite my example of the day before yesterday on 27 February, I went to my hometown Srinagar, in a program I attended and there I saw people, who welcomed me. Especially the girls, and they were overwhelmed by my presence and told stories about me, that sometimes I was not familiar with. And then they wrote Facebook posts about that program. They elaborated on different phases of my life. They were elaborating on different features of my character, which sometimes you feel, oh! Is this how I am? Somebody is writing that ma'am is so simple and her simplicity always inspires me. Somebody else is saying her administration inspires me, somebody is saying she's a good orator and her oratory inspired me. And everyone is adding this and that and the girls are also there, the males are also there and the organizers were also there. And it is flooded with posts about that event. And so I feel really good. I'll cite one more example. In UCC, we had to consult the stakeholders because we are making laws for the general public of Uttarakhand. So we visited Munchari, Bidara, Gadhwani, Ram Nagar, and Kurdwar everywhere. Only Srinagar was left and I told my team members that it is my hometown, so we will go there when there won't be exams or elections or this and that because I know the place well. So on the 16th of December, it was decided and we went there. The meetings are from the administration, so I didn't share them with my friends or the students, or anyone. You won't believe it, but the students were there with dhol and Nagara, and everyone was there. Around 400 students, Research scholars, and masters students. Because I was dean of student welfare so I knew every student and their names and I addressed them with their names and my members were so surprised. But I said, they were my students and I have worked closely with them so I know them. It was such a fantastic experience. I'm a teacher. Irrespective of their ideologies. Whether they are from ABVP or NSUI, the leaders were telling me that they trust me and they always support me. So it is a nice thing when you get to know that people think about you like that.



What's the best lesson you have learned in your life that you would like to share as a piece of advice for the students?

For students one thing is very clear, it is the era of technology. We are apprehensive that 75% of jobs will be reserved for technology and AI. Time is very challenging, so my advice is especially to the students, male or female, always try to equip yourself with multi-skills, and life skills: cooking, cleaning, etc. These are the skills that parents today are not teaching their children. If I get laid off from my job tomorrow I will still survive because I have these skills I can put to use, but the students today might struggle. Do not waste any day without learning, every hour, every moment of your life. The second thing for this generation is that family is a fountain of morality and happiness. I have traveled around the world and I find it as my treasure. We have to invest in maintaining the unity of our family. you guys are confident as students, and as individuals, so acquire as many skills and maintain the bond with your family



Interview and editing by-
Gargi Sati
Bachelor of English
Semester 6 year 3

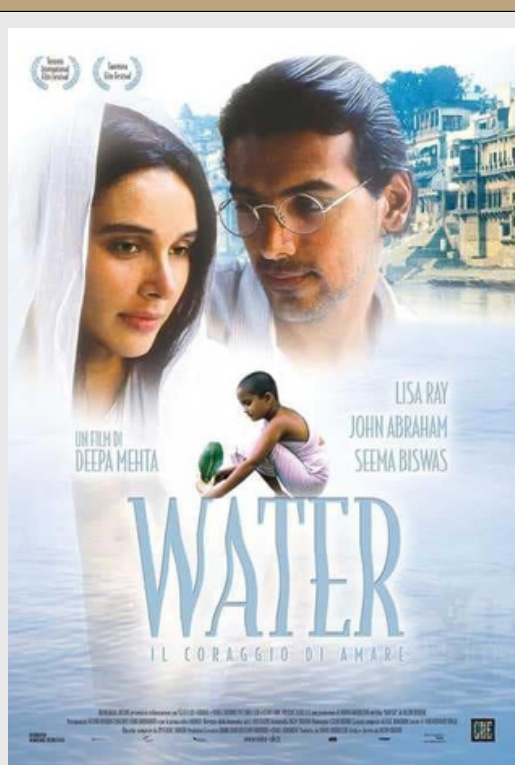
Transcription by-
Lohitya Singh
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

Photography by-
Ridhima Thapliyal
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

Film Review: Water

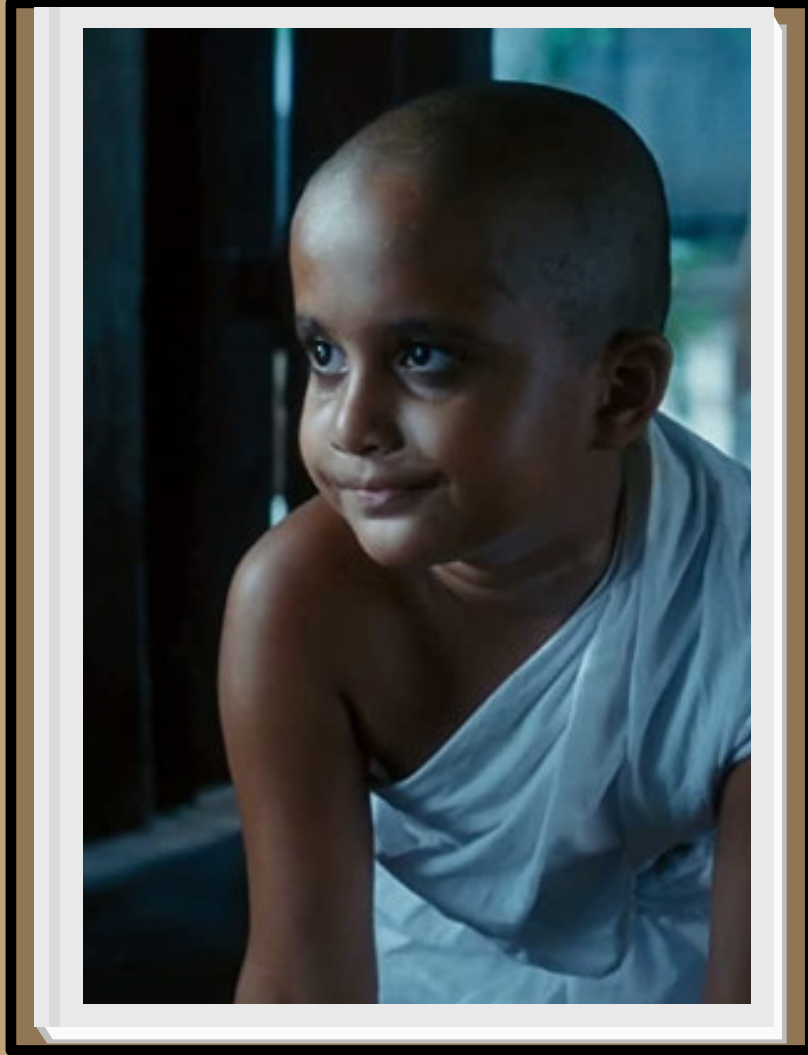
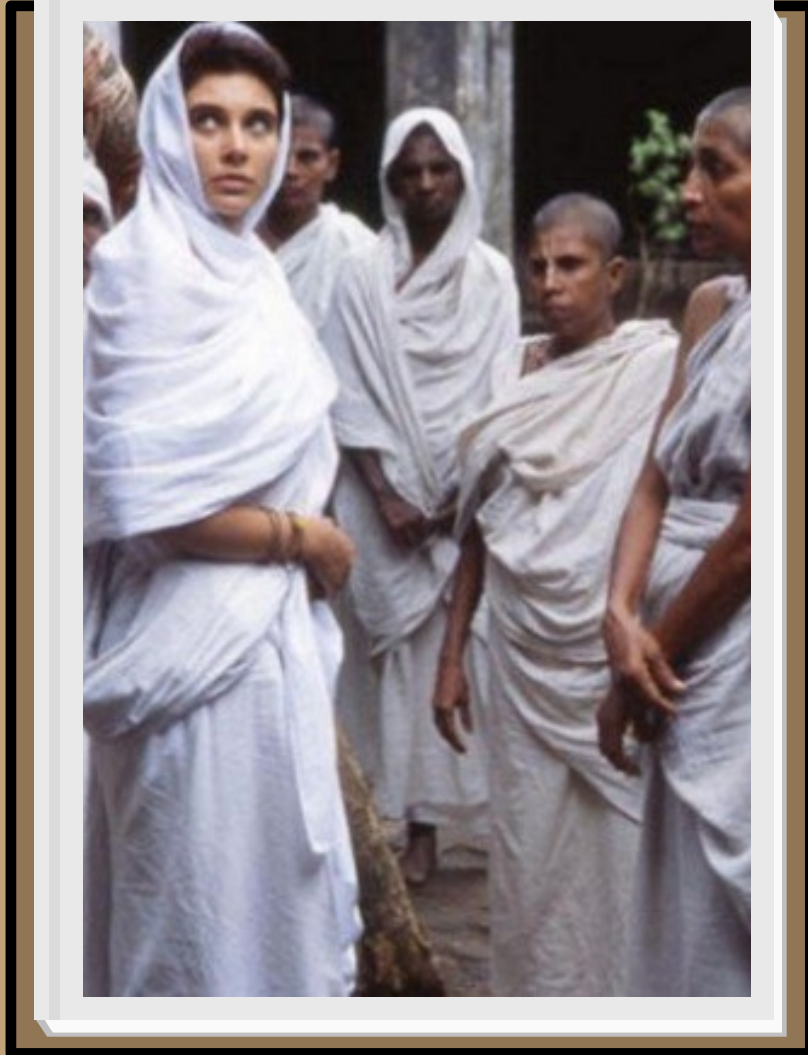
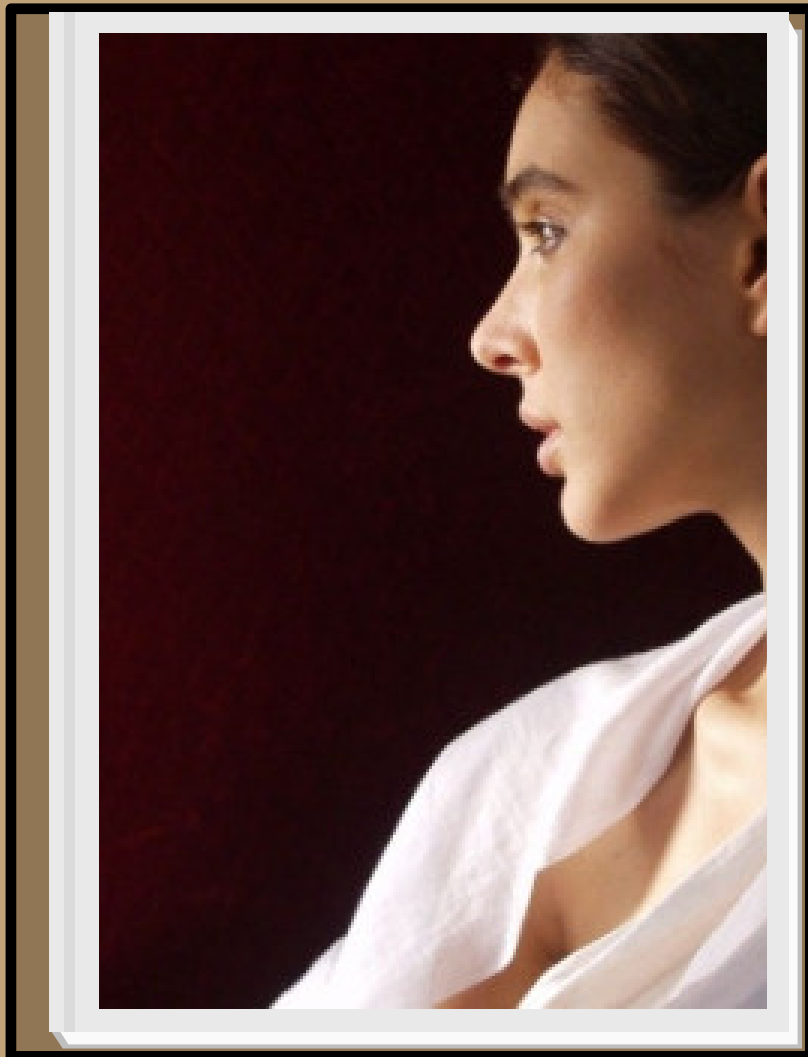
Directed by: Bapsi Sidhwa

Water is a 2005 drama film written and directed by Deepa Mehta and screenplay by Anurag Kashyap. This film is also the last instalment of Mehta's Elemental Trilogy. This film is set in 1938 and centred around two widows struggling with life in an ashram in Varanasi. One of them is a widow at eight, Chuhiya (Sarala kariyawasam), who doesn't even remember getting married and have been forced to wear white cloth, shave her head and live with other widows in a 'Vidhwa Ashram'. Then she meets another widow in the ashram, Kalyani (Lisa Ray). She's the only one allowed to have long hair, but for a reason. Madhumati (Manorama) forces her into prostitution to get income. Through Chuhiya, Kalyani meets Narayan(John Abraham), a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. Narayan falls in love with Kalyani, a girl who yearns for someone to respect and love her. But later, she learns that Narayan's father is one of her clients. She cannot bare this and eventually loses hope and commits suicide. On the other hand, chuhiya is now being forced into prostitution.



Shankutala (Seema Biswas) has been caring for Chuhiya like her child in the ashram. When she learns the law of allowing widows to remarry, she sends her away from that place with Narayan. In Manusmriti, a religious text tells that a woman is half her husband, and when he dies, she half dies too. That's why she has only three ways after her husband's death: she can die with him, marry his younger brother if available, or live an isolated life in an ashram and sacrifice her hair and colourful clothes to show mourning for her husband's death. In an interview, Deepa Mehta said that people still believe and follow the text that's 2,000 years old. The film's characters question society's irrelevant, inhuman and brutal norms towards widows as if they are not humans anymore. This film mirrors the stagnant thinking we still have in the society that requires a change.

Aparna Pandit
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1



Perfect Girl

Making a creative sand house,
To learn cooking, for the in-laws,
Maybe, this was the way to hide her flaws,
Being, adroit in making braids,
Learning, to drape a saree around her waist,
Becoming perfect, was now her only aim,
But, but time never remains the same,
In the race of fame,
She killed her real self,
Found no one there to help,
Everyone applauded but nobody understood,
Being perfect, was just a misconception,
Embracing, the flaws,
Being realistic, she realized it should!!



Anuja Thapliyal
Masters of Biotechnology
Semester 4 year 2



An Interview with IAS Radha Raturi (Additional Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand)

Since women's day is approaching the very first female, the very first woman that comes to a person's life is their mother.

Considering that, what has been your mother's role in your life for making the woman that you are today?

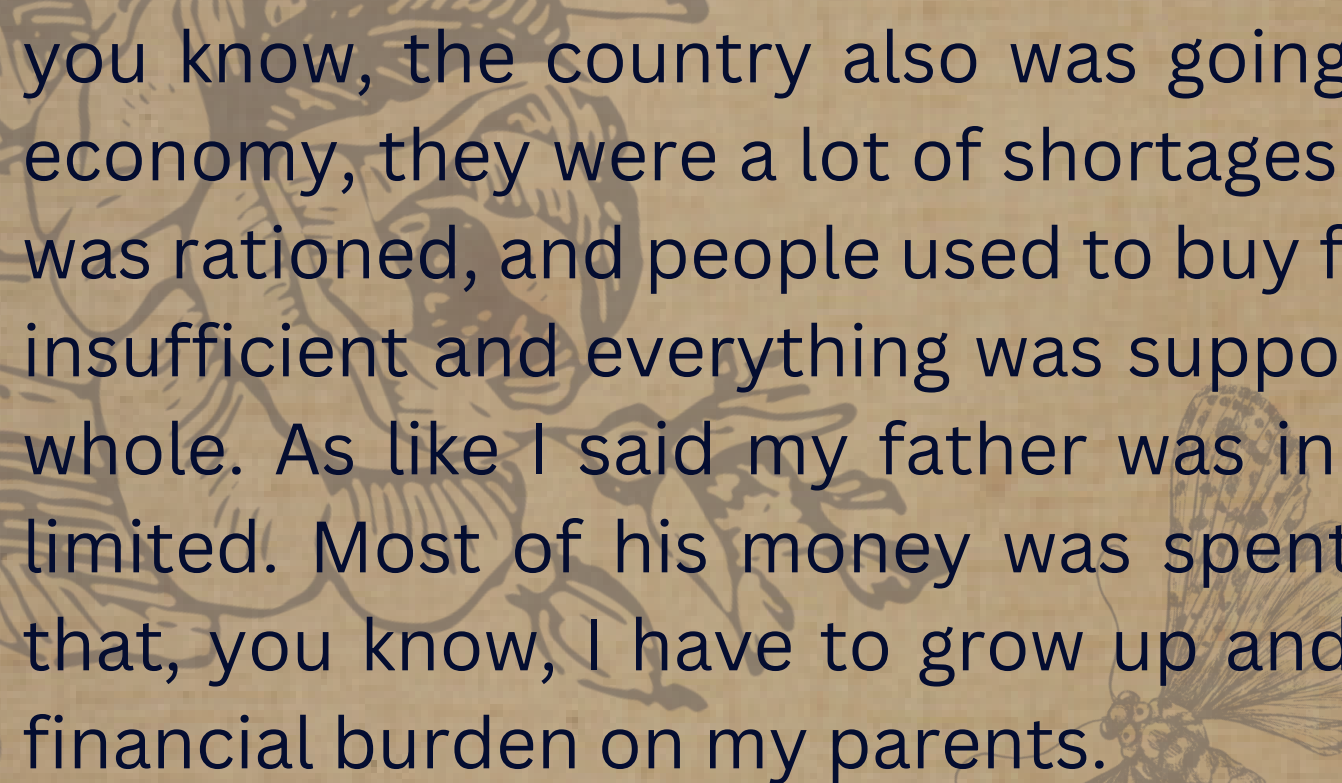
Thank you for coming and talking to me and yes, you rightly said yourself that I think, in a child's life, the most important role is that of the mother and I was especially blessed because I had the most amazing mother in the world. She was a very happy person by nature. Whatever adversities came in her life, she just took it in her stride and she was a very loving mother. She wanted to do everything for us like, you know, just to make her children happy, we are two daughters.

I have a younger sister. So she brought us up with so much love that we become very confident human beings and she made us believe in ourselves. She made us believe that we can do anything in the world. And there was never any discrimination in my home. Both my parents were very positive about the girl child and you know, giving equal love and support to the girl child and they said whatever you want to do in life we are with you. So, I think I was very fortunate in having a very extraordinary mother.



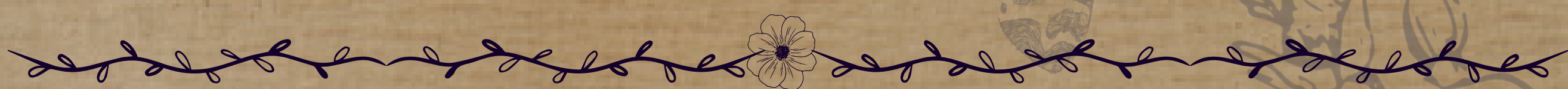
Right, Ma'am, it's wonderful to see how fondly you spoke about your mother. The next question is, have you always been an ambitious girl?

You know, I don't think I'm ambitious at all. Ambition is something that is a very subjective word. I just wanted to become financially independent in life when I was a small child because my father was in government service and



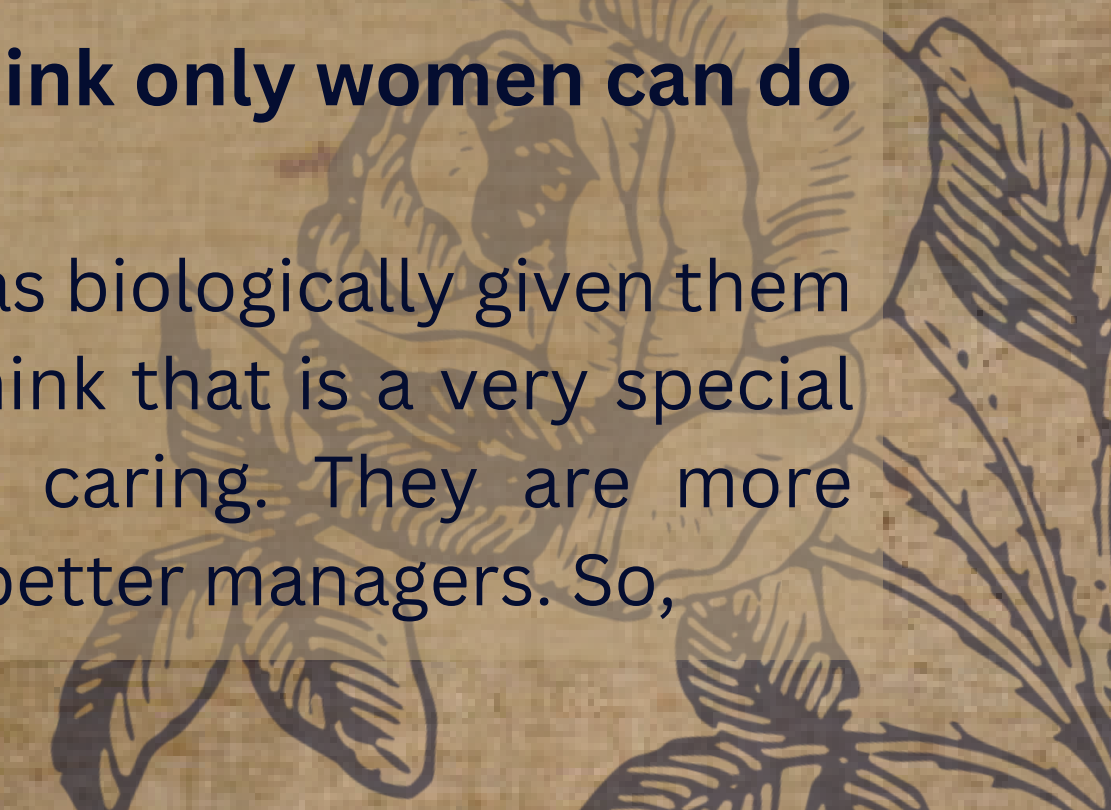
you know, the country also was going through a very difficult phase in the economy, they were a lot of shortages. You know, they were rash. Everything was rationed, and people used to buy food from ration shops. Everything was insufficient and everything was supposed to be supplied in the country as a whole. As like I said my father was in government services salary was very limited. Most of his money was spent on education so I was always aware that, you know, I have to grow up and earn my living. I didn't want to put a financial burden on my parents.

The second thing was that I had seen some, you know, cases of girls who are troubled by Dowry. So I had told my parents right from the beginning that I don't want traditional arranged marriage where, you know, the boy's side troubles you for dowry. I said I will never marry in a place, where you will be scavenged for money and whatnot. Back then, arranged marriages were always linked to dowry, back in the days of 80s. So I said, don't think about getting me married off. I first want to get a job, and my only purpose wasn't to get married. So after I finished, my graduation from Bombay University, in History immediately, I appeared for the civil service exam, for the first time, and I was just lucky to get through to one of the central services. So my purpose was not to simply get married. I went for my field training in Hyderabad. And in fact, that is where I met my husband. But meanwhile, I had given the exam a third time. So in my third attempt, I became an officer. Nad made it to, LBSNAA Academy. That is how I mean, it just happened, you know, one after the other and I was never very ambitious. In fact, after my graduation, just like you, I wanted to be a journalist because I used to live for my father's magazine and I was always interested in reading and writing. So in Bombay journalism, is a very positive kind of field and my interest was also in social work. So I thought through journalism, I can You know, bring out stories of people who are less advantaged than us. Like we used to work in the slums, and the stories there were very interesting for me as also stories of women who have been oppressed by Society. So such things are just what I wanted to bring out. So from journalism, it was my dream but I came to government service.



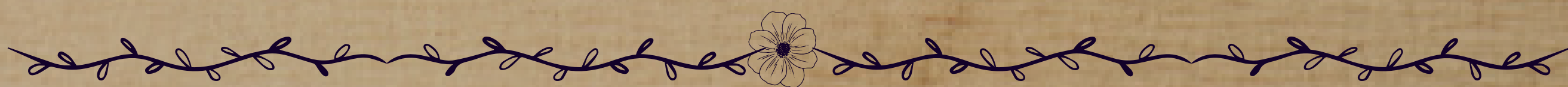
Moving on ma'am, one thing in your field, you think only women can do and can bring about a change?

See, women are basically creators. I mean, Nature has biologically given them the power to create, to give birth to a child. So I think that is a very special task, which only women can do. They are more caring. They are more nurturing and women also make better leaders and better managers. So,



right now if you see the world you know, there's this overt violence in the world and even if you see the history of the world, see most of the wars which happened in the world in the past have been the decisions of an expansionist tendency. An aggressive tendency, which, you know, by nature is more amongst the men, since ages it is men who planned coups, the Presidents, Prime Ministers of various nations who have gone to waged disasters.

Taking such decisions in the world has led to a lot of violence and deterioration. So I think if women were leaders women were, democrats, ethically elected Presidents, or Prime Ministers, we would have a much more peaceful world because by nature women are nurturers and harbingers of peace and calm. They bring up the children. They are also protectors. No mother would want her child to go to war and then get killed in a war like all these decisions which lead to violence, or destruction, I think. Women normally would not take such decisions, so I think they just make better leaders and better managers.



Is striking a balance between professional and personal life achievable, how do you manage them?

Absolutely achievable. You see, first of all, you have to, when you are working as a professional and then when you think of settling down and getting married, start a family. First of all you have to choose the right life partner. So if you get the right partner as I got, half your battle is won there itself. Because if you have a good understanding between both the partners, then everything gets shared, whatever work you do not just at home, but in every space when required. Also, see what happens is that our society puts all the responsibility of a household on its women. When they come home after their jobs, they're supposed to then take care of the home. Also the children, the elderly, etc. So in that kind of scenario if you have a supportive husband then it makes things much easier for you and you are in a much happier place. If you are happier with yourself, with your life, then you can also give 100% both to your job and to your home. So I mean, if you are a happy mother, a happy wife, a happy daughter, then you will also make your family happy and it's so much easier to balance them. I have an understanding husband and he knows that the nature of my job, he thus never minds my staying in the office for exceeding hours. He never feels bad. And has never objected as to, 'why isn't she coming home?' 'I am alone at home' ect. so that sort of thing has never come. And the most important thing is not to have any ego issues. See most relationships have problems if you have an ego and the unwillingness to shed it. Both me and my husband, we don't have any ego issues between us, so I think that makes it easier.

So he won't misunderstand and toss questions like, "Der kyu ho rhi hai?" He knows, that I have a meeting with the Chief minister or any other person in authority and I have to be there. He's also worked through the same system and finding a partner who is working in a similar field also helps a lot because he's known the pressure of being in a specific decorum and rigid circumstances. He's thoroughly understood what my job entails. Similarly, I knew what his job entailed. I could also understand if he's not coming home the whole night. I know, that if there's a riot going on, he has to go and manage the city and cater to the desperate situations. If he's not coming home, there have never been odd questions raised. Like it is said, it takes two to tango, there needs to be a shared understanding of this concept not just in words but in actions.

The next question, have you ever been in a situation where you thought that 'Women' and 'Power' were two noncompatible concepts?

Not really because I personally never worked to acquire power so to say. I think, in some fields, yes perhaps this may be happening, the desire to acquire power but it never really happened with me. It's also, what you are looking for, in life, because my aim in life, in my government service, also was not to acquire power, my aim was basically to help people. So because my basic instinct is social work, like, how I can help those less advantaged than me. So in that really, I use my job to help people take whatever facilities or aid I can provide them with and listen to them, I try my best to help them. Even if that doesn't concern my department, I try to put them in touch with a department concerning their problems and whatever I can do at my level, I try to do that. So in that sense, I am not denying that officers out there don't need power but that's something I'm not looking for and I'm very happy with it. You know what I have done in life. Like I call it my 'Dua Bank.' If I help somebody, they give me a lot of blessings/ dua So I keep collecting all these blessings in my bank. And I think that helps me stay happy and healthy enough. It brings peace to my state of mind. I don't even remember because I have a very bad memory but 20 years back, I was working as the DM in Tehri in 2002 and even now people will come and thank me for whatever I did for them years ago though I don't even remember what I had done at that moment. Actually, jo log aate hain unke liye esi samasyaen khadi ho jaati hain jo unki life mai ek major shift le aati hain. Agar aapne unko help kiya, aap toh bhul jyenge kyuki wo aapke liye choti baat hai magar unke liye yeh cheez but badi hoti hai, I would say, unki dua lagti hai. I think power is never an issue. Power is for those who want to misuse their authority because we are in public service, so we have to serve the public. So that's the way I see it right now.

What is the biggest, learning experience you've had that served you as an epiphany?

Biggest learning experience?

Difficult question, because I think we keep learning all the time and I keep learning from everybody. I learn from my husband. I learn from my children. I'm learning from you right now what you have achieved.

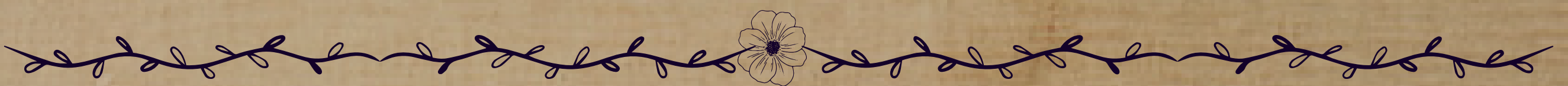
I think it's great. See, I can tell you some very good incidents which happened in my life, which taught me a lot. Before the state was created, I was in Uttar Pradesh, and there's a district called Fatehpur and I was posted as DM there. That was my first posting as a DM. And in fact, before that also I worked in the Uttar Pradesh government for two years. My husband went to the National Students Academy in the faculty. So we were there for four years, from '95 to '99. So there I worked in the Handicapped Welfare Department. And that was a very good learning experience because when you work with the ones that are handicapped or disabled, you find that if nature takes away something or the faculty of a person, then nature gives them something very strong to compensate with. Like, if you see the visually challenged, they have talents. They are either very good singers or very good speakers. Similarly, those that are deaf, do not get disturbed by the sound, they are very good at whatever they do because unka focus ya concentration, 100% hota hai. So for two years, I worked very closely with all different groups of specially-abled persons. And that taught me a lot because all the time I kept realizing how blessed I am because I have all my abilities in abundance. When I was in college, I had seen this quotation by Hemen Keller, "I cried because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet."

So what I had done was that I made a kind of poster and I put it up in my room. So this is something that they have always said that you know, we always keep complaining about what we don't have, but we don't see how blessed we are and how much we do have. So I think if we realize that, then that will always make us happy. So this experience in Uttar Pradesh helped me work in this particular sector, the specially-abled sector. And I found it very interesting. And when I was a DM, what I did was I made a whole plan. We surveyed the whole district. Every village, every specially-abled person was surveyed, and whatever they required, medical aid or assistance, we made arrangements to bring these. There was an organization called Alimco in Kanpur. They make all these artificial limbs and appliances, wheelchairs, crutches, everything. So we called them. We had 15 blocks, and development blocks were given some assistive devices. And we didn't take any money from the state government because Alimco said, "We will sponsor all your camps through their CSR fundraising." That gave me a lifelong lesson.

Right, Ma'am, this is your last question.

What would be your message for all aspiring women and those who dream of becoming something big in their life?

I would give a very simple message to all our women, all daughters, and sisters. We have the most beautiful constitution in the world. So please go to the constitution articles 14 to 18. Just read that. I would request all women to know it and cherish it for the article talks about equality. And the constitution gives perfect equality to all citizens, whether it's a man or a woman. So all the women that are working in various walks of life, I would request them to help other women. So you kind of create a ring of sisterhood and just try to achieve the ideas.



Interview and editing by-
Aana Ayesha Khan
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

Transcription by-
Lohitya Singh
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

Photography by-
Sanyam Bisht
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

Film Review:

Raazi

The story of an unknown warrior.

Razi is a movie based on the book, "calling Sehmat " by Harinder Sikka and is directed by Meghna Gulzar.

The movie follows the story of a young Indian girl named Sehmat, who, on the insistence of her father, agrees to marry the son of a very important military man of Pakistan in order to retrieve critical intelligence for India. The movie

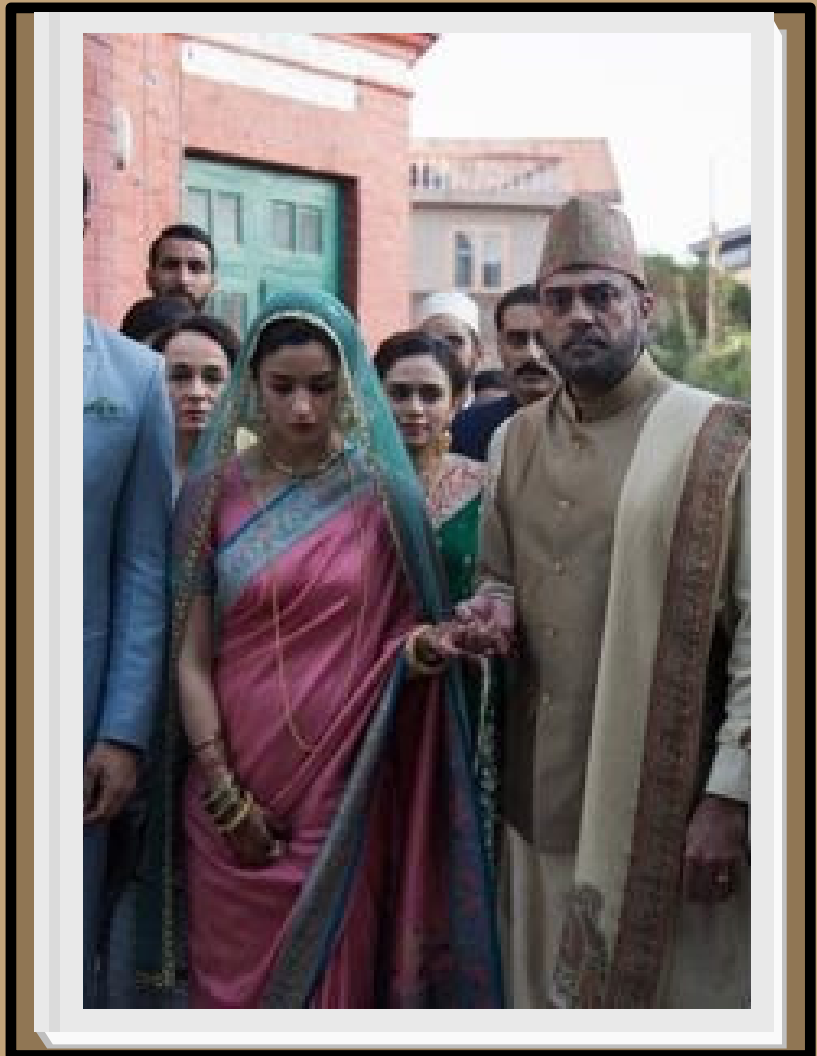
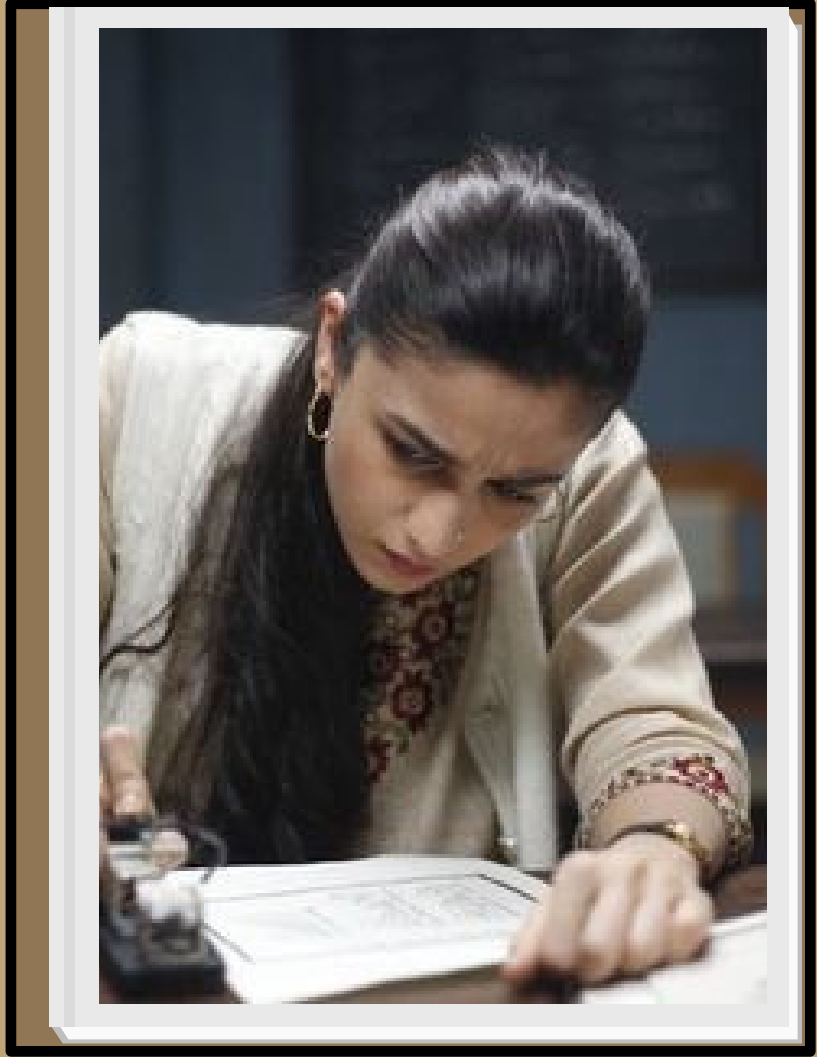
very realistically shows the struggles that a normal girl may go through as she trains to become a spy. Unlike most cliché Bollywood movies, Razi has shown a woman's

strength by very beautifully allowing her to show emotions as well as bravery. In one scene, sehmat's character is seen, even killing a potential threat when needed, and then proceeding to grieve at the same. Her character is also seen feeling anguish and helpless on many occasions.



This shows that there has been no unrealistic standards that had been set in the name of nationalism and eliminating the cliché thinking of "bad things happen, in the line of duty" and push the fact aside with a nonchalant shrug. The character also shows very slow and gradual growth, considering that Sehmat was one normal college student just yesterday. Unlike the typical Bollywood movies that show these women protagonists to be 'different', Raazi very beautifully, puts forward, the real emotions and situations that women as spies go through.

*Anshika Badola
Semester 2 Year 1
Department of English*





It is Not Me, But the World at Fault...

My connection with this world goes down and deep,
thoughts like rain water, inside earth's core seep.
It is me, with whom you play, dance, cry and eat.
And yet you dare to crush me under your feet?

You hinder my courage, every day my soul is broken,
but to you it seems, it is for me an appreciated token.
If i perish, your world will come to a halt,
For it is not me but the world at fault.

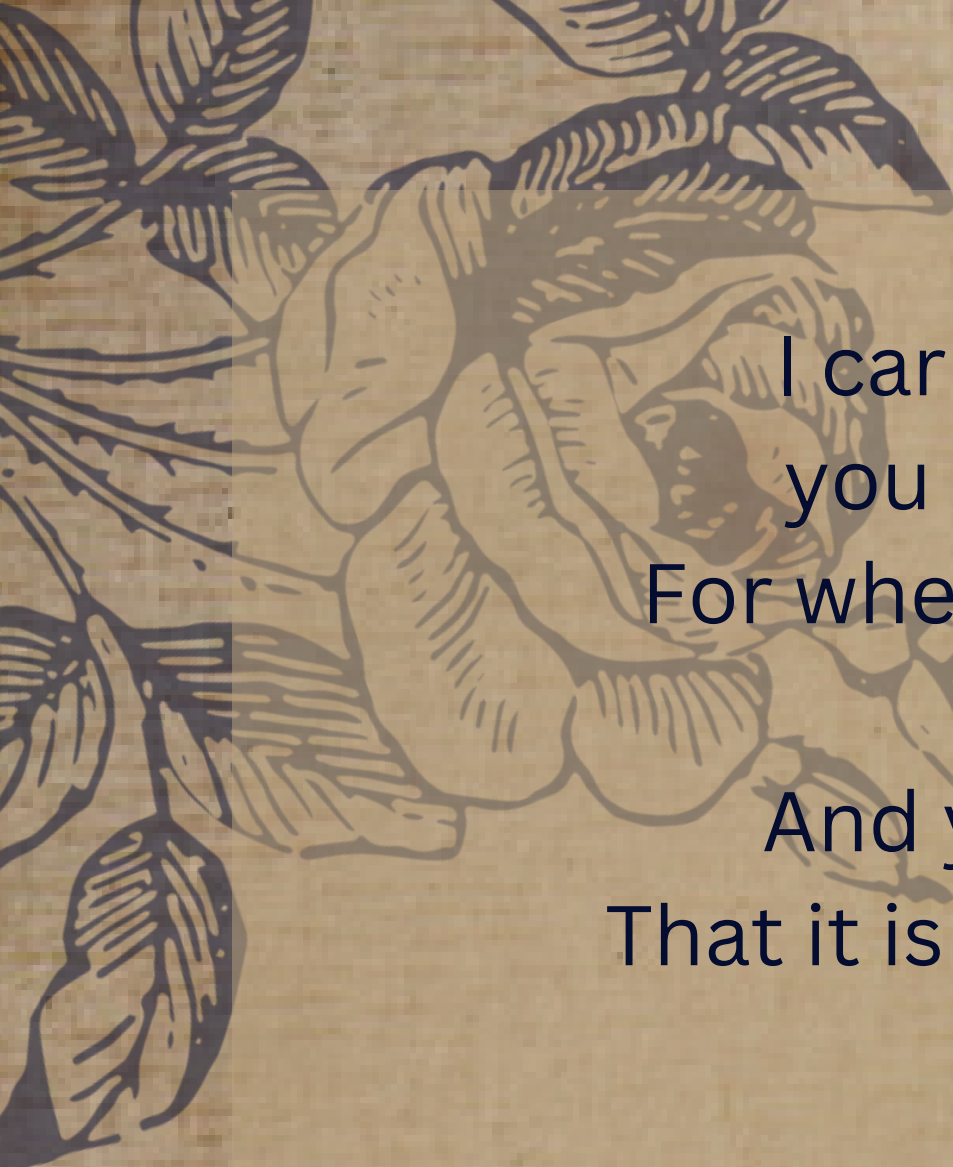
Come to me, I will embrace you,
cause it is not everyone that i love, it's very few.
With a new day, I turn on to a page which is fresh and new,
but my joys evaporate like drops of dew.
Cause you seem to rub on my wounds like salt,
for it is not me but the world at fault.

"You are a girl, be to the point
and precise."

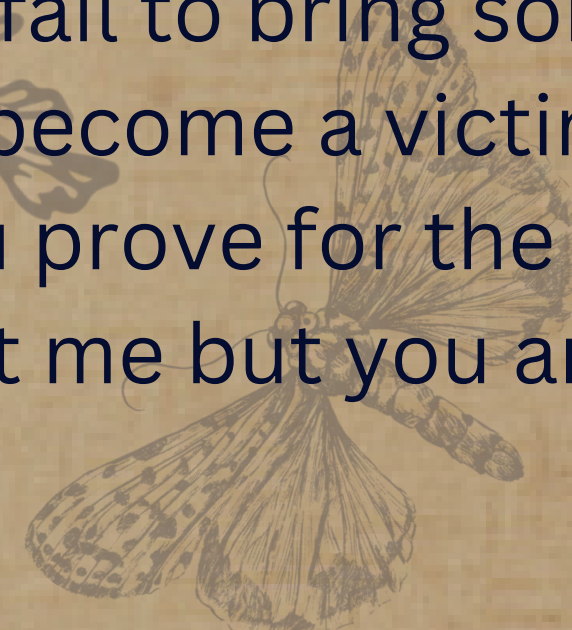
"Watch out what you wear and remember of what size."

"Oh! You are a woman be polite and kind."

But remember, it is not my clothes that need to be changed,
it is you, who needs a change of mind.



I carry a whole damn world in my womb,
you look at me and build a joyous tomb.
For when I fail to bring someone as wild as you,
I become a victim of assault.
And you prove for the umpteenth time —
That it is not me but you and your world at fault.




The day I disappear,
I know for you it will be a day full of joy and cheer.
But you will crave for me, you will give a call,
And won't come. No! Not at all.

And then you shall realize - It was. It is and it will be —
Not me, but you and your godforsaken world at fault



*Anaa Ayesha Khan
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1*



Book Review:

Her Body and Other Parties

-Carmen Maria Machado

"Many people live and die without ever confronting themselves in the darkness."

Her Body and Other Parties is a compelling short story collection revolving around the intimate experiences of women in life from mostly a queer perspective and the horrors that their souls and bodies are subjected to.

Carmen Maria Machado bends the line between genres like psychological thriller and science fiction to comedy, horror, and so much more with this novel.

Each story in this collection though quite different from one another carries a similar message to its core – how women are oftentimes made to feel like guests in their own lives and in their own bodies because of the authority with which society tries to exert power over matters and decisions interpersonal to those very women. It forces you to think about the deeper implications of its themes and come up with your own interpretations of it, as these

tales can be read both as a social commentary and the surreal disquisition of female rage, passion and longing.

Her stories are dark, eerie, and discomfiting and would most likely leave you with this unsettling feeling in your chest, but her strange metaphors and hauntingly beautiful writing would make this one of the most unforgettable, if not one of the best pieces of fiction you've ever come across. Feral. This is the term that comes to my mind when I think of this novel.

"When you think about it, stories have this way of running together like raindrops in a pond. Each is borne from the clouds separate, but once they have come together, there is no way to tell them apart."

Shivani Negi
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1



An Interview with Vaidya Shikha Prakash (Ayurvedic Doctor)

Beginning with your life , I want to know how prestigious it is for you to be a forerunner for the females in your family as someone who is carrying the legacy of Ayurvedic doctor after your father and grandfather.

I think it's a moment of pride and fulfillment for me because this is something I have always wanted to do as I grew up in my life. And also to be able to do it nicely as a woman because we are very good multitaskers. We are equally better with intensive jobs as everyone in our society.

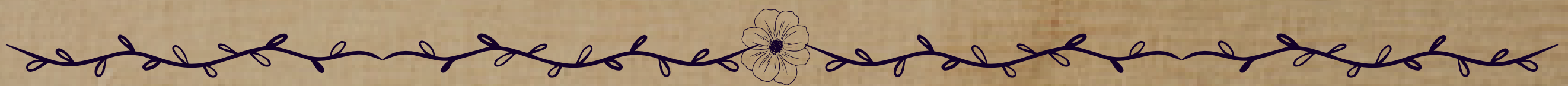


I want to ask if there were any barriers that you faced in your field as a female doctor and how did you overcome those?

I think not really because I've always been a very strong-headed person. So I've never actually thought of myself as someone different, just because I'm a woman. It has not come my way at any time. But when I started in a practicing position, almost a decade or 12 years back, people were not used to seeing an ayurvedic doctor as a young girl because at that time the identity of a vaidya, recognized by the people, was that of someone elderly with kurta and dhoti. But in that situation as well it was not a hardship to tackle, because with time everything is changing and people are accepting modernity and its changes or we can say that more people are coming into this field and learning about it.

Because you are an Ayurvedic doctor, as a female, I want to ask for myself and for my peers, how beneficial is Ayurveda, particularly for women's bodies?

Nowadays we all look for quick results after undergoing a particular medical system, so sometimes we don't get the results we want. But ayurveda believes to treat any disease from its root cause which tends to be your daily lifestyle. The most important care we can provide to a woman's body is giving it proper nutrition, proper diet, and proper care. All of these have a big role to play. Ayurveda is a holistic science, not only talks about particular medicine for betterment but also talks about preventive measures and restorative measures. So constantly keeping a check on your lifestyle is the key to having a healthy body and mind as well. This goes not only for a woman but also for everyone in our society.



There are not many who teach about Ayurveda on a bigger platform, so how do you feel as a female catering to this service?

I think again I would turn to my statement earlier also that as a female I really don't look at myself as any different. But yes we do need more and more powerful leaders in the field of ayurveda. People who can come forward and teach others about the working of this science inside their body and at the same time spread awareness about a lot of myths and notions that are well explained under different aspects of ayurveda. It really gives them a chance to think about their body. Because this is a time where ayurveda is really growing and everyone wants to create a healthy society around us and also there are these emerging platforms which actually gives space to people like us to talk about it. So I feel really proud and happy to deliver the essence of ayurveda in society around me.



So as a female doctor how do you see gender diversity as an important aspect in your field of work?

Having gender diversity in our field is very important and it works perfectly well for the working community as well as people coming to us for their problems. But, the majority of, you know, in my bachelor's are women, so we were a batch of around 50 people in college. When I was in my graduation, which is a five and a half year course, we were 35 girls, and 15 boys. And after that, for the next few years, what I could see was more and more girls were opting to be in this field. And maybe girls are more intelligent. I don't know why, but, yeah, I see more and more girls are reaching towards this field now and it's really interesting because this could really turn out to be a beneficial aspect for women's health awareness through ayurveda, where having a good lifestyle is the first step towards having a healthy body.

We know that you have a venture named Valley Culture which works to ruralize urban food habits by providing great hand made food from different communities across the Himalayas , so here we know that you are a female entrepreneur also and how empowering is it for you to have?

As you know I am a third generation ayurveda practitioner, so I have the ability to take care of that legacy of being an ayurvedic doctor. But somewhere inside me I wanted to create something of my own. We created Valley Culture because ayurveda has taught me deeply about eating local food, seasonal food and traditional food. Coming from the state of Uttarakhand, I feel very connected to the Himalayan belt and I think the local food here is really nutritious and, what the modern world calls, is a superfood. So me and my co-founder, Robin, we started a venture called Valley Culture as a startup, and today we are working with a community of almost 5000 farmers in the state and we help them with their studies, give them market access, and provide a fair trade. So I think that was an extension to my journey and having something that I created myself gives me immense confidence and pleasure as well.

In the context of empowerment of women, what advice would you give, out of your life experiences, to the students/ girls who have dreams and want to see them getting fulfilled like yours?

I think being a woman is a blessing. Secondly, if you don't take care of yourself, nobody else will do that. Third, you have your own superpower and never let anybody tell you that you are not good enough. So I think these are three things that I live by and this is what I would want to communicate to each and everybody. And being an ayurveda practitioner i want to say that your mental health, your physical health, your emotional health, and also your financial health; all these are very important as you grow and help you in being a strong woman in this society. I think my page will not turn out to be very women centric because I don't want some extra favors as I am ready to give my best to stand tall in the crowd and work harder as everyone.

Interview by-
Kritika Joshi
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

Edited by-
Kritika Joshi (Semester 2)
Gargi Sati (Semester 6)

Transcription by-
Lohitya Singh
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

चार औरतें

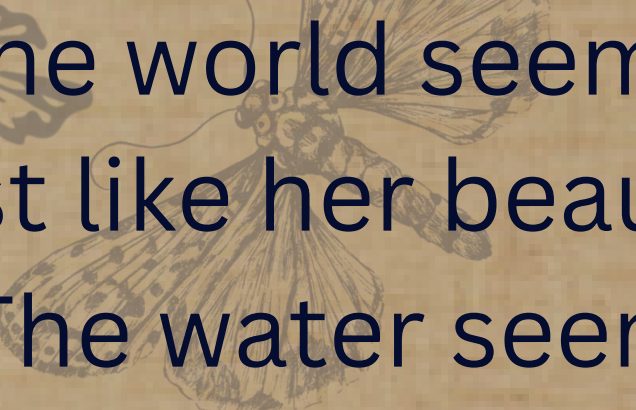
चार औरतें मरती हैं हफ्ते में चार बार। चार दीवारों में चार औरतें चार जख्मों पर मरहम लगाती है चार बार। चार औरतें चार दिन बहती है खून चार महीनों में चार बार। चारों औरतों ने प्रेम किया है चार बार। चार औरतें बाल सुलझाती हैं चार दिनों में चार बार तो फिर भी बाल खींचने पर आदमियों द्वारा क्यों निकलते है गुच्छे उलझे बालों के हज़ार बार? चार जोड़ी कपड़े हैं और चार जोड़ी चप्पल लेकीन फिर भी निर्वस्त्र रहती हैं हमेशा क्यों? चारों औरतों को मिलाकर आंखें हुई आठ तो फिरभी आदमियों की नज़र कैसे चली जाती है आठ छातियों पर चार बार? क्या आठ आंखें कम हैं? क्या आठ आंखें एक अंधे दो आंखो वाले आदमी का सामना न कर पाई?

चार दीवारों में चार औरतें बहती है खून हफ्ते में चार बार! नहीं नहीं योनि से नहीं! पिटती हुई चार औरतें बहती है खून आठ आंखों से दिन में हज़ार बार। कहदो उस आदमी से कि चार औरतें मर गई हैं। कहदो की जाल के नीचे आ ही गया शिकार। चार औरतें मरती हैं हफ्ते में चार बार पर यह उनकी नहीं... बल्कि पूर्ण पितृसत्ता की है हार।

Anushka Bhatt
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1



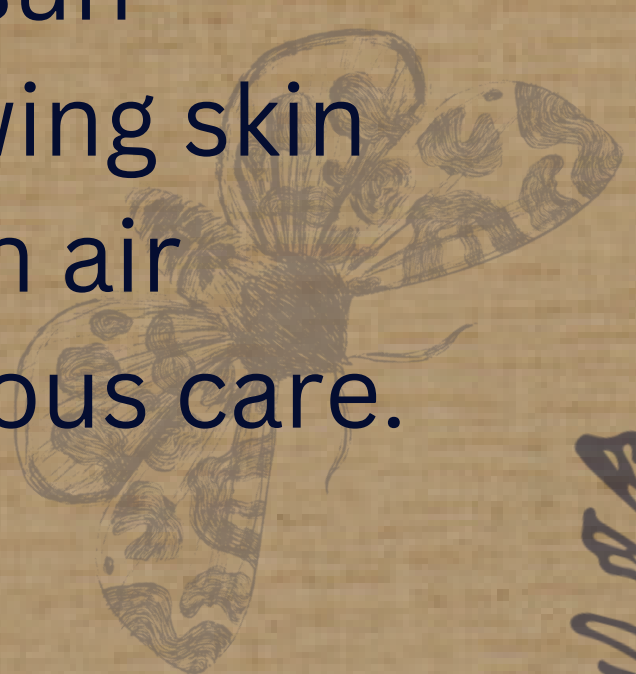
Fler



The world seems bright
Just like her beautiful eyes
The water seems pure
Just like her majestic soul.


The trees are shining green
Just like her beautiful dreams
The birds sings softly
Just like when she whispers sweetly.

The wide blue sky
Is just like the freedom in her life
The mesmerizing colors of the rainbow
Is just like her colorful life.



The dazzling sun
Is just like her glowing skin
The fresh clean air
Is just like her virtuous care.

Ridhima Thapliyal
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1



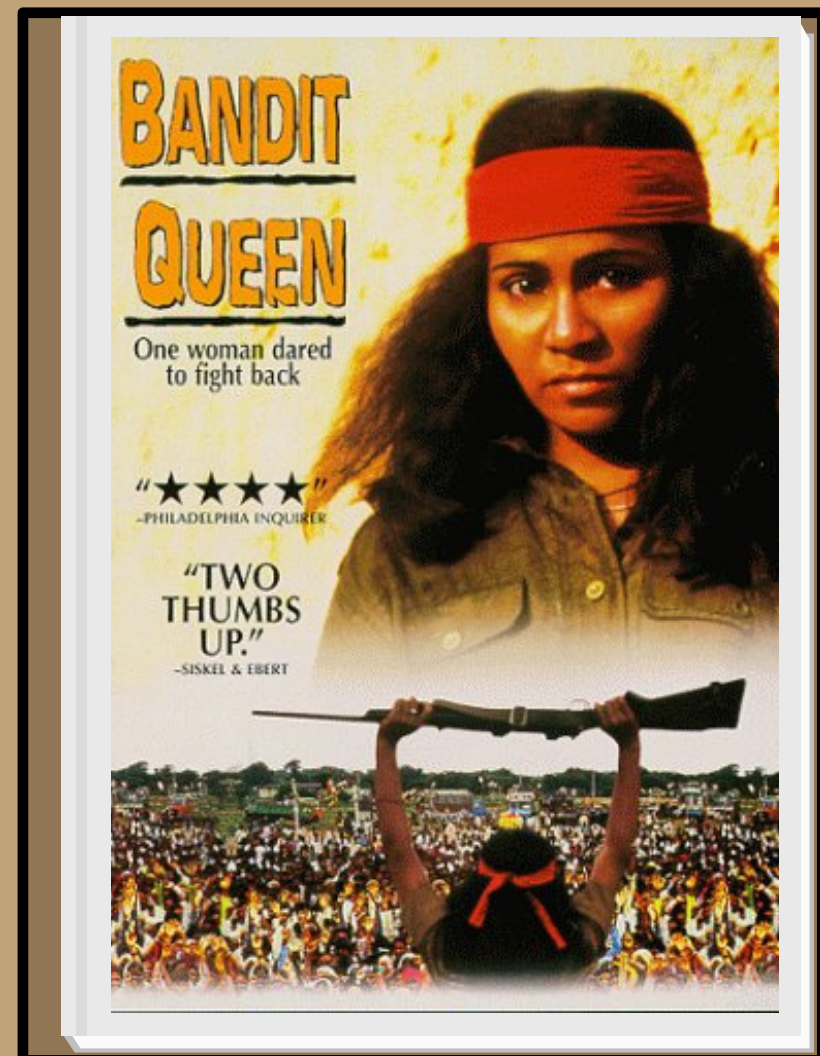
Film Review:

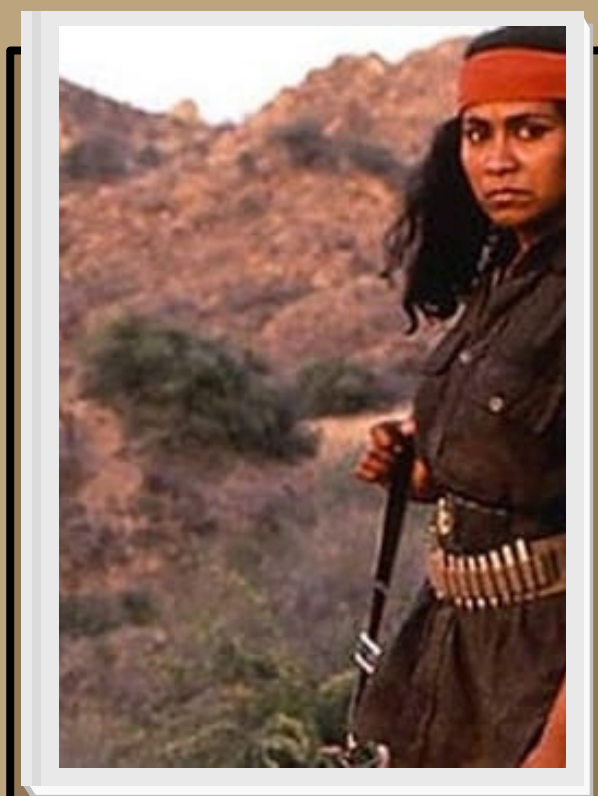
Bandit Queen

The Uninterrupted

Bandit Queen is a 1994 film by Shekhar Kapur that was adapted from Mala Sen's "INDIA'S BANDIT QUEEN". The film revolves around the life of a real-life character, Phoolan devi, a lower-caste woman who faced a lot of sexual abuse and discrimination in the society but still came out strong and became a national name.

Phoolan was a Malah lady born in extreme poverty and a lower cast household. She was married at the age of 11 to a 33 year's old man who used to torture and sexually abuse her. Phoolan somehow managed to get out of that marriage but still suffered as upper-caste men on multiple occasions raped her. In the urge to run and find justice for herself, she joined a bandit group. From there, Phoolan didn't take a back step and became the Sardar of the bandit disguised as "The Bandit Queen". Later, she entered the world of politics and became M.P. on SP's ticket. Phoolan was a hero for many as she used to ruin the upper cast and hold up trains and vehicles. She was also known as "The Robin Hood" of the lower caste.





The movie runs on the entire life story of Phoolan Devi and the story behind her becoming the bandit queen. The most exciting part about the movie and Phoolan Devi was the era when it was set as a female-centric movie, and female dominance during the era of the 90s was a very new thing. Also, Shekhar Kapoor's way of presenting the movie was so raw and rooted that it connected with the audience very well.

Dibakar Bannerjee, one of India's most prominent and celebrated art directors, once in an interview stated that what made him watch bandit queen was that it showed and commented on the images and scenarios of actual India, which is still prevailing in today's time. He believed that we, the Indians, are restricted to a window where India has been presented as a place where a story like bandit queen can't prevail.

The movie is a brave subject showing female dominance and heroism and inspires us about how a lady can fight for herself and change the happenings around her.

It is presented as an asset of becoming a hero even thou disguised as a villain by keeping in mind the set of ideology, principles and moral values.

Sanyam Bisht
Bachelors of English
Semester 2 Year 1

She

Her body suffered so much pain for a baby
She manages her house and her career
She always stands by you on your side
She will always know your pain.
She sacrifices for you
She works hard for you
Your smile turns out her strength
Your anger will break her heart.
She is a symbol of power
Ignite you when you are in the dark
There are no limits to a mother's love
Near, far she will always think of you.
She fights against the world for your dreams
An ocean of love, care and power
Her smile is precious
She hides her tears for your smile
She is and will be with you till the end of life.
Without her, you are filled with tears.
When you are with her,
You are surrounded by sweet memories.
I can not express how grateful I am
Mother made my life so simple
Every part of my life she was my helper
My mother and I'm her devotee.

Sonali Negi
Bachelor of Biotechnology
Semester 2 year 1



एक संवाद

कामना चंद्रा जी के साथ

कैसे आपने लेखिका बनने की राह चुनी और उसे बखुबी इतने सालों तक निरंतर संभाला और हम सबका मनोरंजन किया ?

जो हम करना चाहते हैं उसके लिए तो निरंतर कोशिश तो करनी ही चाहिए और अपनी कला को निखारते रहना भी जरूरी है। बचपन से मेरे घर में पढ़ाई का जो वातावरण था मुझे उससे प्रोत्साहन मिला। और आगे मेरी कहानियों पर फिल्म बनी, राज कपूर और विनोद चोपड़ा जैसे सिनेमा के बड़े-बड़े डायरेक्टर्स ने मेरे डायलॉग्स एंव स्क्रीनप्ले को अपनी फिल्मों में इस्तमाल किया ।

मेरा सफर बहुत ही अच्छा रहा, अगर मैं इतने साल पीछे जाके देखूँ तो मुझे मेरे काम से जो संतुष्टि प्राप्त हुई है वही मेरी सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि है और इस सफर में मुझे सभी का साथ मिला और शायद इसी कारणवर्ष में अपनी कला को दुनिया के सामने रखने में कामयाब हो पाई। इस सफर में मैंने सीखा है कि जो कला हमारे अंदर है अगर हम उसके साथ निरंतर परिश्रम करे तो वो जरूर निखरकर बाहर आती है और इन ही चीजों ने मेरा सफर आसान और दिलचस्प बनाया है

तो अगर हम बात करें आपकी फिल्मों के बारे में, एक लेखक के रूप में आपकी पहली फिल्म "प्रेम रोग" सन 1982 में आई थी, मैं यह जानना चाहूँगी कि उस समय सिनेमा उद्योग में आने के लिए एक महिला लेखक के रूप में आपको किस तरह की कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा था?

मैं अपने आप को भाग्यशाली मानती हूँ कि मुझे ऐसी किसी भी मुश्किल का सामना नहीं करना पड़ा । मैंने उन दिनों केवल अपनी राइटिंग पर ध्यान दिया, जो ख्याल मेरे मन को भा लेता था मैंने उसके संबंध में कुछ लिखने का सोचती थी और धीरे मेरी कहानियां रेडियो एवं सिनेमा के रूप में आने लगी और लोगो ने भी उसे बहुत पसंद किया. ऑल इंडिया रेडियो के लिए लिखित नाटक और स्क्रीन के लिए कहानियां और संवाद जिनमें फिल्म चांदनी, 1942: ए लव स्टोरी (विधु विनोद चोपड़ा द्वारा निर्देशित), 1982 में राज कपूर द्वारा निर्देशित प्रेम रोग, और टेलीविजन शो "कशिश" शामिल हैं। इसे आप मेरी किस्मत कह सकते हैं कि मेरा रास्ता मुझे मिलता गया और सभी के साथ से मैं एक लेखिका बन पाई

नब्बे के दशक से वर्तमान दशक तक की लेखिका होने के अलावा आप तीन प्रतिभाशाली बच्चों की मां भी हैं, तो इस दौरान आपने अपने जीवन में ये संतुलन किस प्रकार बनाए रखा?

विक्रम चंद्रा मेरा बेटा एक लेखक है। जिस ने सेक्रेड गेम्स (2006) का लेखन किया है और लेखकों के लिए एक डिजिटल टूल का निर्माण भी किया है जोकि ग्रंथिका है। अनुपमा चोपड़ा मेरी बेटी भी एक लेखिका, पत्रकार, फिल्म समीक्षक है। डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म "फिल्म कंपैनियन" के संस्थापक और संपादक भी हैं।

तनुजा चंद्रा ने भी भारतीय फिल्मों का निर्देशन और लेखन किया है। उसने यश चोपड़ा की दिल तो पागल है (1997) और दुश्मन (1998) और संघर्ष (1999) की पटकथा का सह-लेखन किया है। इसे भी मैं यही कहूंगी कि ये मेरा अच्छा भाग्य रहा कि मेरे तीनों बच्चे बहुत मेहनती और अध्ययनशील हैं। वह मुझ से ज्यादा मेहनत से अपने अपने क्षेत्रों में काम करते हैं। अगर बैलेंस की मैं बात करूं तो मैं कहूंगी कि मैंने कभी जॉब नहीं की क्योंकि वो 8 घंटे का आपका समय मांगती है, उस दौरान मुझे ऑल इंडिया रेडियो में जॉब का ऑफर मिला था पर क्योंकि मेरे बच्चे बहुत छोटे थे तो मैंने उसे नहीं चुना। मैंने हमेशा ही स्वतंत्र रूप से काम किया, ताकि मैं अपने बच्चों की जिम्मेदारी भी निभाऊं और अपने लेखन के शौक को भी पूरा करूं। मुझे लगा कि मेरी दोनों जिम्मेदारियों को उनका पूरा स्थान मिलना चाहिए। मुझे कभी भी ऐसा नहीं लगा कि मैंने कुछ बहुत बुरा त्याग किया। मुझे यहां लगता है कि अगर कोई इंसान चाहे तो वो महिला हो या पुरुष हो अपना काम एक सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण, आशा, और विश्वास के साथ करता है और किसी भी परिस्थिति को पार कर सकता है। एक जरूरी बात, इंसान को जीवन में हर परिस्थिति में एक अच्छा हस्यवृत्ति (सेंस ऑफ ह्यूमर) जरूर रखना चाहिए इससे जीवन की हर मुश्किल आसानी से कट जाती है। कभी भी किसी भी बात का पछतावा ना करें तो अच्छा है, केवल जो काम आप पूरा कर पाएं उसके लिए भगवान का प्रणाम करना चाहिए।

जैसे की कभी-कभी समाज पुरुष को एक महिला की प्रगति के बीच एक बाधा के रूप में पेश करता है लेकिन मैं यहां जाना चाहती हूं कि कैसे एक पुरुष सहायक के रूप में महिलाओं के सपने पूरे करने में मदद करता है?

यह बहुत जरूरी सवाल है क्योंकि मैं यहां समझती हूं कि अगर आपके साथ एक सपोर्टिव पति हो तो आपकी राह थोड़ी आसान हो जाती है। अगर मैं अपने पति नवीन चंद्रा की बात करूं तो जिस प्रकार उन्हें मेरा साथ निभाया है एक लेखिका बनने में, मैं उसे मेरा अच्छा नसीब मानती हूं क्योंकि उस जमाने में मुझे हर जगह ले जाना मेरे काम को प्रकाशित कारवाने के लिए ले जाने से लेकर रेडियो में इस्तमाल करने तक के इस पूरे संघर्ष में वह हमेशा मेरे साथ थे मैं यह मानती हूं कि अगर दोनों ही महिलाएं और पुरुष एक दूसरे का साथ हर अच्छी बुरी परिस्थितियों में निभाएं तो कभी भी दोनों किसी की राह में बाधा का रूप धारण नहीं कर सकते हैं। मैं यही कहना चाहती हूं कि सभी को अपने सपनों के साथ साथ अपने आस-पास वालों के सपनों को भी समझने और उससे पूरा करने में उनकी मदद करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए

यदि आप सभी महिलाओं के साथ-साथ सभी छात्रों के लिए एक छोटा सा प्रेरणादायक संदेश दे सके तो वहा हमारे लिए यह बहुत सौभाग्य की बात होगी

जेसा की मैंने कहा कि हर इंसान अलग है उसकी पसंद अलग है हमें किसी पर दबाव नहीं डालना चाहिए कि वह डॉक्टर, इंजीनियर, या लेखक ही बने।

यहां बात माता-पिता को भी समझनी पड़ेगी कि अगर बच्चा लड़का है तो वो इंजीनियर ही नहीं बनेगा, या लड़की है तो वो डॉक्टर ही नहीं बनेगी। क्योंकि जब मेरे तीनो बच्चों ने राइटर बनने की बात की थी तो मैंने भी थोड़ी देर के लिए उनकी इस पसंद पर सवाल किया था पर मैं धीरे धीरे यह बात समझी कि बच्चो को दुनिया में अपनी स्वयं से जगह बनाने के लिए जो भी काम करना है उसके लिए उन्हें खुली छूट देनी चाहिए ताकि वो अपने सपनों को पूरा कर सके और साथ ही साथ जिम्मेदारी लेना भी सीखे। अगर मैं केवल बेटियों की बात करूं तो मुझे यही याद आती है कि अगर मेरी मां मुझे उसी जमाने में बी०ए और एम०ए तक पढ़ा सकी तो आज कल तो "स्काई हैज नो लिमिट", सभी लड़कियों हर फील्ड में जा भी सकती है और अपने जिमेदारियों को अच्छे से निभा भी सकती है। सभी बच्चों को यही ध्यान में रखना है कि वो अपने सपनों का अच्छे से निरीक्षण करें और उसे खोजने के बाद उसके लिए 100% मेहनत करें। इसके बाद लड़के हो या लड़कियां दोनो ही बहुत कुछ हासिल कर सकते हैं। यह बात सच है कि लड़कियों के लिए यह सब थोड़ा मुस्किल होता है पर आज कल के माता-पिता भी खुले सोच के हो गए हैं और सभी बातों के संबंध में चाहते है कि हमारी बेटियां भी आगे बढ़े। अब वह जमाना नहीं रहा जब यह बोला जाता था कि लड़कियों को दसवी तक पढ़ाओ और फिर शादी करवा दो, अब तो वह आर्मी में जा रही है प्लेन उड़ा रही है, कोई काम नहीं है जो लड़कियाँ नहीं कर रही है क्योंकि अब लड़कियाँ अपनी पसंद से अपने सपने और काम चुन रही है।



Interview and transcription by-
Kritika Joshi
Bachelor of English
Semester 4 year 2

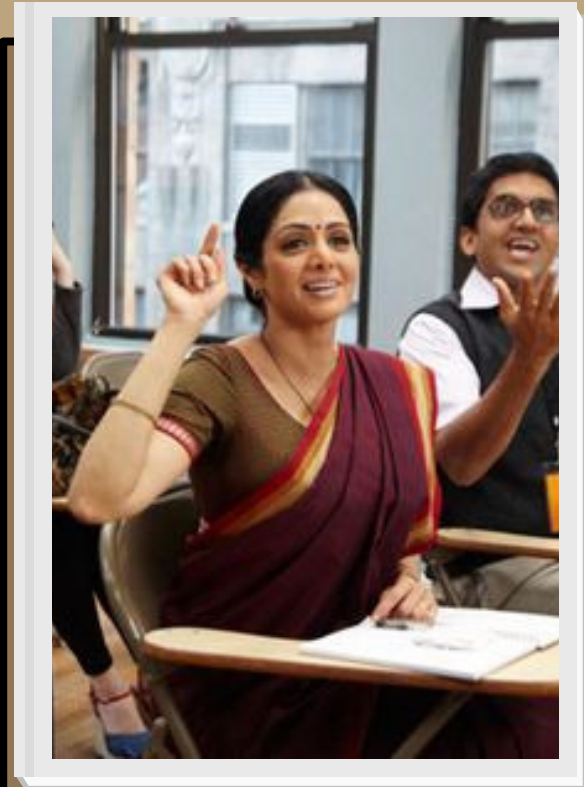
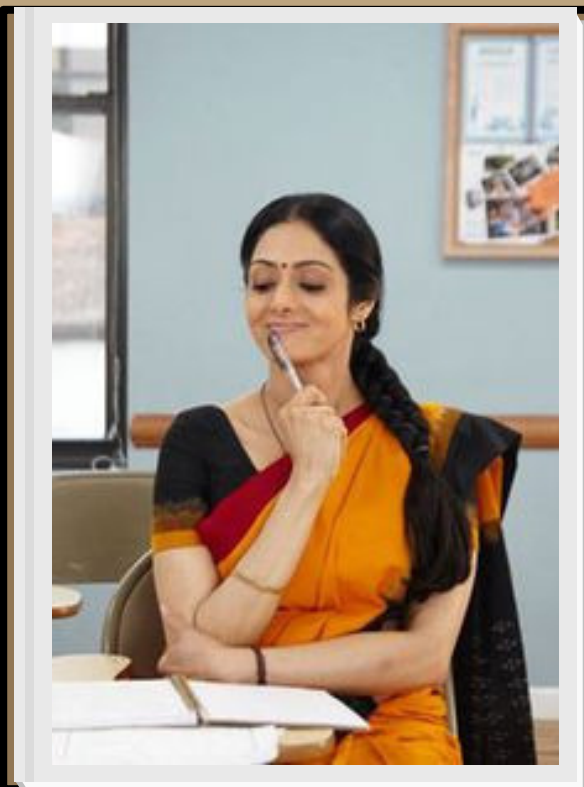
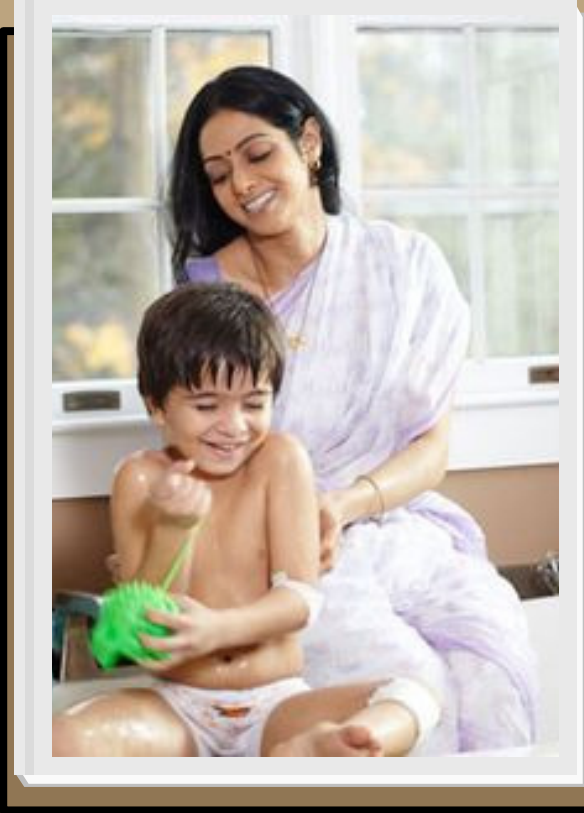
Editing by-
Sanyam Bhist
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1

Film Review: English Vinglish

Story of an "everyday mediocre wife".

English Vinglish, a family drama directed by Gauri Shinde, showers insight into the life of Shashi, a housewife. Living in the states with her husband and family, Shashi is constantly mocked and made fun of by her family for not knowing English. The movie very beautifully takes us to the journey of self discovery of Shashi, where she learns to speak the foreign tongue, simultaneously understanding her needs and aspirations. In a world where homemakers are considered to be a part of the lower strata of the society, English Vinglish, very beautifully and successfully showcases the power a "mediocre Indian housewife" holds. The movie uplifts the present women generation and teaches us that, knowledge has no age barrier. Moving ahead with time, the movie helps the viewer to get motivated and thus find solace in the humble nature of Shashi as a mother and a wife.

*Khushi Yadav
Semester 4 year 2
Bachelor of English*





एक संवाद

पिंकी जी के साथ

सबसे पहले मैं आपसे जनना चाहता हूं कि जो आपका "मनन वैभव स्वयं सहायता" समूह है, ये महिलाओं की मदद करने में किस प्रकार से काम करता है?

सबसे पहले तो महिलाओं ने ये ग्रुप स्वयं बनाया है ये सोच कर कि हम सब को अपने लिए ना ही सिर्फ एक रोज़गार बनाना है परंतु इस समाज में अपनी जगह बनानी है और खुद के पैरो पर खड़े होकर दिखाना है। यह समूह महिलाओं की मदद उनको आगे बढ़ने का एक सहारा प्रदान करके करता है , ताकि वो अपने परिवार की आर्थिक स्थिति को बेहतर करने में योगदान दे पाए और उसका अच्छे रूप से पालन पोषण कर सके।

मनन वैभव समूह से आपको स्वयं किस प्रकार की मदद प्रदान हुई ?

सबसे महत्वपूर्ण यह की एकता में शक्ति होती है ,तो जो काम हम अकेले नहीं कर सकते वह एक समूह में मुमकिन हो पता है । जब हमने यह समूह बनाया था तो उससे दस महिलाएं जुड़ी और उनके साथ ही दस नए आइडिया आए जिनसे रोज़गार का रास्ता खोजने में असानी हुई। हमने इस समूह की शुरुआत 'मंग' की खेती से करी फिर हम 'वस्त्रालय' मंत्र से भी जुड़े, जिसमें हमारी महिलाओं ने अपनी प्रदर्शनी में भी भाग लिया और फिर 2021 में हमारी महिलाओं को दून यूनिवर्सिटी में रोज़गार मिला। जिसमे हम गेस्ट हाउस और कैंटीन संभाल रहे हैं। समूह से मेरे लिए भी अपना रोज़गार बनाना आसान हुआ और सब की मदद से आज मेरा रोज़गार मुझे हिम्मत प्रदान करता है एवम मेरी आर्थिक स्थिति को मजबूत करता है।

जैसा की हम जानते हैं कि आप अपना ज़्यादा समय अपने रोज़गार को देती है। तो आप अपने परिवार की जिम्मेदारी कैसे संतुलित रूप से उठाती हैं?

यह सच है कि हम ये काम अपने परिवार और अपने बच्चों की शिक्षा के लिए कर रहे हैं, तो इसमें कुछ एडजस्टमेंट तो हमें करना पड़ेगा। उसमें हम ज्यादातर महिलाओं की तरह अपने परिवार को अधिक समय नहीं दे पाते , पर हम दिन रात मेहनत करके उनके भविष्य का मार्ग तैयार कर रहे हैं।

आप एक छोटा सा संदेश हमारे छात्रों और महिलाओं के लिए क्या देना चाहेंगी?

कभी हमें भी अपने दिन मुश्किल लगते हैं । हम भी सोचते हैं कि कैसे हम रोज़गार पाए अपने परिवार की सहायता करें । पर कोई भी महिला कमज़ोर नहीं किसी भी तरह से , फिर वह पढ़ी- लिखी हो या अनपढ़ हो, अगर वह ठान ले कि उसे कुछ करना है तो वह मुमकिन है। यही मैं चाहूंगी कि हर महिला आगे बढ़े मजबूत बने, मानसिक और आर्थिक स्थिति से। जब हम बाहर निकलते हैं तो हमारे लिए बहुत सारे रास्ते खुलते हैं, रोज़गार की कहीं कमी नहीं है बस हमें उसके लिए मेहनत करनी आनी चाहिए। बहार निकलेंगे तो बहुत सारी चीजों का अनुभव होगा और कठिनाइयों का सामना करेंगे और धीरे - धीरे अपना रास्ता खुद बनाएंगी।



Interview and transcription by-
Kritika Joshi
Bachelor of English
Semester 4 year 2

Editing by-
Gauri
Bachelor of English
Semester 6 year 3



She

I came out of her 21 years back,
When there was everything that I lack.

She taught me everything,
Whether it is to read, write or sing.

She wiped my tears when I wanted to cry,
She brought water for me when my lips went dry.

And then there is one that I annoy the most,
But apparently I also love her without the cost.

She was there for as long as I remember,
Stealing my chocolates and making a blunder.

Yes, we do fight,
But I got your back when things go tight.

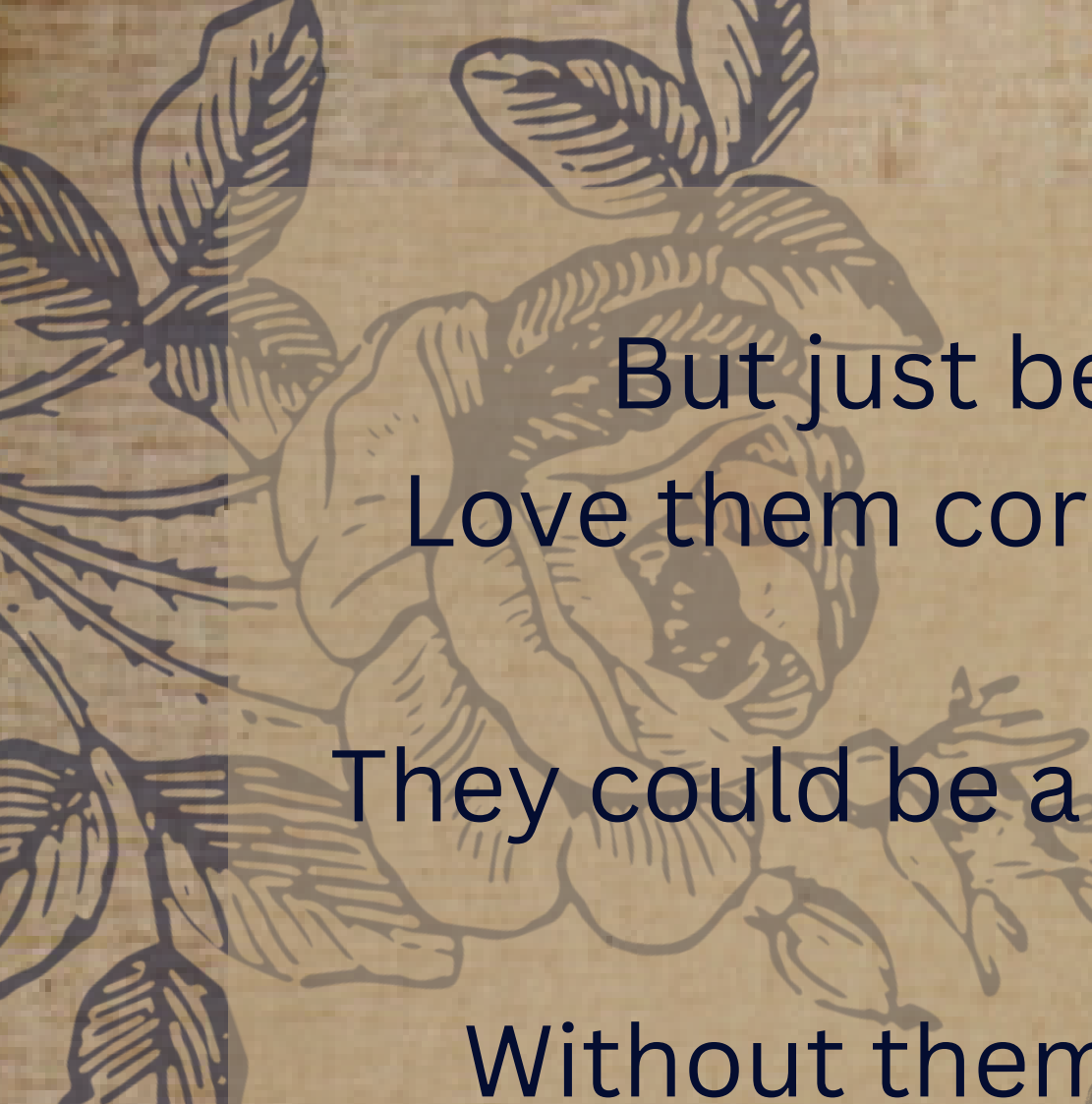
Then there is one that I met later on,
Unique with a different reckon.

Got intrigued by her mind,
And that lovely face was not easy to find.

Just want to keep her close to me,
Make her a part of every sunset that I see.

They were there when I was lost,
And that's why I respect them the most.

Not because of their gender,



But just because their heart is so tender.
Love them correctly and they would give up their
life,
They could be a mother, sister, a friend or even your
wife.

Without them, I don't think there would be life,
Maybe there would be but it would be like walking on
a knife.


Women are wonderful creatures made in heaven,
And I wish to keep them safe every eleven-eleven.

So if not today then when?

So happy women's day to every single one of them.



*Agranshu Grover
Bachelor of English
Semester 2 year 1*



स्त्रीत्व: मेरा और तुम्हारा

सुनो सखी!

तुम्हारा स्त्री होना
कोई बोझ मात्र नहीं।

यह एक श्रृंगार है, अवसाद है, परिणाम है।


श्रृंगार है भारी झुमको का,
चुभने वाली पायल बिछौनी का,
देह को ढकने वाली पारदर्शी दुपट्टों का।

अवसाद है पीड़ा का,
नए जीवन को शरण देने की पीड़ा,
अधूरे प्रेम प्रसंगों को धरातल में गाड़ने की पीड़ा,
मेहनती होकर भी मात्र

"काम काजी" महिला कहलाने की पीड़ा।

और एक परिणाम है स्त्री होना,
इन सभी अवसादों से ग्रसित होकर
एक श्रृंगारित महिला की पहचान बनाना।
इस परिणाम के समुक्ख शीश झुकाकर
मैं अपने और तुम्हारे स्त्रीत्व को नमन करती हूँ सखी।

Khushi Yadav
Bachelor of English
Semester 4 year 2



Extract taken from Magazine 'Science Reporter' Eminent Women Scientist Relive their Journey in Science

As I was in school, science nurtured my imagination and led to the beginning of my questioning about the fundamental existential questions about the origins of everything around me, which sparked my curiosity and took hold in my mind. In return, I learned that all my questions did not have predetermined answers and I had to look out for them myself. Some of us find it worthy to follow the quest to find these answers; I was one of them. As I move further along in life, another important aspect that I learned and personally find really important is the urge to create a sense of self-identity, which makes you stand out in a community of people. Delhi gave me the necessary intellectual push and exposure that I believe I needed to a great extent. There's a reason why I say this. When you grow up in the small city community setup, it becomes very difficult to make sense of an individual self. The building of an individual identity becomes a task. Living and studying first in Varanasi and then in Delhi were my first tussles with the idea of the self. People from small cities live in a utopian world in their minds – and then life happens, you encounter the absurdity of the real and the ideal. Then there's a swirl of uncomfortable questions that one needs to address. Nevertheless, women being women know how to do things and get them done despite the world moving in all possible directions. I remember one day when I had to abandon my car 500 meters from the day care center of my son, due to heavy snow, as I was unable to steer the car in those conditions and would have been late to pick him up, had I not sprinted.

At this stage of my career, I am accepting new challenges and exploring how I can make a difference, if at all. I ask new questions and am a bit more confident of finding some answers, maybe. That said, my entire career is a witness to the fact that nothing comes easy. A career in science is a way of living, it is not a way of earning. It is a rewarding yet never-ending exploration. Do you know where it ends? At the start! The more you delve into the finer truths of physical reality, the more you come closer to asking the fundamental questions about it. The most basic one: Why does the Universe exist? We started from here, didn't we? As teenagers, you and I had asked this question at least once in our youth. All of us have. Where did that question get shadowed by the burdens of modern living? We do not know. Being a female scientist I know that women will have to stand up and speak for themselves, every single time. Women have to be ready to be scoffed at and become ever so slightly aggressive just to be taken seriously, but we have to. For the young girls who are dreaming to take much bigger steps and make a bigger impact, woman up!



Photo Wall




The Investiture Ceremony
3 October 2022

Photo Wall





Panel Discussion
21 February 2023

Photo Wall



Meet the Author- 1
14 February 2023

Photo Wall



Round Table Conference
2023



The Credits

Designer

Aahana Srivastava

Bachelor of English

Semester 6 Year 3

Designer

Anushruti Badoni

Bachelor of English

Semester 6 Year 3

Editor

Gargi Sati

Bachelor of English

Semester 6 Year 3

Editor

Kritika Joshi

Bachelor of English

Semester 4 Year 2

Picture Sourcing

Ridhima Thapliyal

Bachelor of English

Semester 2 year 1





Thank you