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Ali Furqan Syed

Lecturer, Department of
English Language and
Literature, The university of
Lahore, Pakistan.

Aurangzaib

M. Phil Scholar, The
University of Lahore,
Sargodha Campus, Pakistan.

Asad Ali

M. Phil Scholar, The
University of Lahore,
Sargodha Campus, Pakistan.

Sadia Naz

Lecturer, The University of
Lahore, Sargodha Campus,
Pakistan.

Correspondence:

Ali Furqan Syed

Lecturer, Department of
English Language and
Literature, The university of
Lahore, Pakistan.

Sana Munir's Unfettered Wings: An Insight into The Lives of Seemingly Commonplace Yet Contextually Phenomenal Female Protagonists

Ali Furqan Syed, Aurangzaib, Asad Ali, Sadia Naz

Abstract

The present research demonstrated the depiction and representation of empowered women. Sana Munir's short stories offered rare insight into the lives of seemingly commonplace yet contextually phenomenal protagonists as they tackled extraordinary circumstances in a society that didn't always account for their needs and preferences. The stuff of the book was serious and dealt with the male domination and patriarchy in conservative household setup. The crucial thing was that men were perpetrators who were trusted and well known by these women. In each story, the protector became the hunter of the woman. Although there were ordinary women yet they endured the extra ordinary battles powerfully. For that aim the researcher had chosen the close textual analysis as method which focused analysis of the text providing justification through secondary resources. Moreover, the researcher had selected the theory feminism and showed that how female, living in Pakistani society was being exploited physically, emotionally and psychologically by patriarchy and male dominance society. The study built on this motif by taking readers on a journey into the lives of ten unforgettable protagonists. Each character endured turbulence and inspired courage.

Keywords: Empowered, Circumstances, Representation, Stereotypical Image, Exploitation, Patriarchal, Dominance

Introduction

It is truly said that to empower women has a long history and boldly presented today. Women's empowerment doesn't just benefit women, it benefits the whole human race. All the people must be empowered without the concept of gender or race. Empowering others is the act that empowers in turn those who help in seeking when women are empowered; they are able to participate their best to the test of the world. To be empowered doesn't about social equality; however that is a huge part of it. It is about personal empowerment. Women are still in emotional bondage as long as we need to worry that we might have to make a choice between being heard and being loved.

According to Williamson (1993) a woman's worth can be defined as brave, powerful, strong and in control. Empowerment is about women attempt to do in some way. Empowerment means to control of their lives, to have the freedom to make choices they want to be, to be able to go where they like and do what they like so they can live happy, satisfied and productive live. According to Sandler, M., & Coles, D. (2008) women's empowerment means strong communities and economies. It means the whole society will prosper and develop. Not only single segment. This is the misconception of the society that one has to adopt masculine traits to be powerful, it is false.

The feminine characteristics of openness, compassion, forgiveness and unity are the unbelievable necessary for success as both individual and society. True power comes with the balance of masculine and feminine energies. The empowered woman knows she is equal to any man, she believes all human beings are equal disregarding of gender (Walsh Caryn, 2018).

Women find real empowerment as they first know and believe that they are worthy. Worthiness is not to be earned but it is that everyone of woman is born with. Women are

worthy of happiness, emotions, thoughts and their desires. It is the right of the women in their full glory to lead their lives with full potential, truth, peace and abundance (Walsh Caryn, 2018).

An empowered woman knows that leading with love is the key to strong source of power. According to Lama, H. D. (1992) love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries, without them humanity cannot survive.

There are many things against the modern women who want to become empowered. The major issue is the Gender inequality that is the hindrance in leadership of women in the matter of business, politics and all facets of life. But they have to effort, develop and flourish the adversity their experiences in any way they earn. And many women are doing efforts (Walsh Caryn, 2018).

Education enhances women empowerment and the educated women are subjected lower level to violence (Deyessa et.al., 2010). Pakistan is an Islamic state, gives respectable values and status to women. Women in Pakistan have a low literacy rate and poverty with the male dominance. Equality and justice bring peace in society. Their absence brings the frustration and disharmony in society. United Nation was introduced the 17 sustainable Development Goals in 2015, which were applicable on January 1st,2016 (UN, 2017).The goal is addressing empowerment and equality of women with other targets like poverty, inequality and peaceful society (ibid, 2016).

Feminism heightened view of imbalance among men and women. Feminists Fight for the shameful acts as aggressive behavior at home. They advance to get the women's right and open the door for them; hence woman was given the secondary position and optional status. The beginning of the women's liberation followed back to the west with the problems of rude behavior to women. The advancement offered the matter of sexual and social embodiment, male dominated culture degrade women in the public field and standard of women in the formation of men. In the nineteenth century, voices of women lastly got their right to cast vote and gained extra power through different campaigns from different nations.

Feminism is the movement that is about the equal status of women with that of men. It gives the woman a chance to exceed more than man. The advantages of feminism are achieved from lower to high society. The Pakistani authors have depicted the same picture that the women are quite equal with their men. At the same time, they display the psychological improvement of women which can be found in many different characters. The Pakistani women writers have done this more clearly than men writers. The purpose of this writing is to find that psychological improvement in Pakistani women character make the way for the liberation and strength of women in Pakistani Community. This psychological improvement is shown in the depiction of women characters in Pakistani fiction.

The study adds collection of writing related to the women issues and gives details about features of patriarchal structure which is caused to raise women activists' discussion in Pakistan. The research study highlights the development of women rights in Pakistan. Feminism is the movement of struggle for equal political, economic, social and legal rights for women as men in Pakistan. Many women struggled for their rights as they faced the discriminatory policies. However the job of activists was

remarkable to get the lawful rights for women in Pakistan. "The notion of feminism is described as the promotion of the equality of gender male and female and their equal rights in society where they live and the apprehension in the course of theory and action, not on the basis of sexual or biological orientations and roles but their individual participation and assistance on the basis of equality in society" (Allan, 1993).

Unfettered Wings is a collection of stories about ten women, in ten different situations, opposing settings, facing certain timely hardships that women face in their everyday lives. The issues that have been discussed in detail from child marriage, honor killing to choosing to stay single among seven other issues. The female is a protagonist in each and every story. The reader(s) goes to observe broad area of different cultural and social issues of Pakistani society that are related with women in Pakistan, related with their Indian counterparts. Although the women in this book are facing many handicaps but they are not sob-queens and damsels in distress but the protagonists are fighters, survivors and very much brainy. These stories are based on reality whether these are observing as pure fiction. Sana Munir deals with the customs, conflicting ideas, social taboos and constraints in an artistic manner that chained women. Women first indulge in the problems, getting experiences and after gaining lesson they confronted ahead in the stories. She states that how women are dealing through the men in her short stories. The stories are described in comprehensive way and with detail to narrate social, domestic, psychological and emotional issues of women.

Basically this work highlights feminism in Sana Munir's work *Unfettered Wings*. Many writers have supported feminism in their writings. The term feminism has supported in this book by the author. Feminism is an effort for the women rights and equality in society. Simply it is about such equality where women can do everything which is done by men. To spend life in such society where no violence and pressure is applied on the women is the basic result needed and required by the supporters of the feminism. It creates awareness and removes threats of sexual violence. Many writers have taken steps through their writings (GayFall, 2014).

Research question:

- How does Sana Munir depict empowered women in her stories *Unfettered Wings*?

Literature Review:

In 19th century, Feminism movement had started in Europe. Charles Fourier, a French philosopher (1772-1837) had coined the word. Women started struggle against the men about the gender discrimination that is called feminism. The female writers, theorists and critics used feminism in their writing but not as a weapon to challenge the patriarchal structure and order. Feminism is broad area of ideology, social and political movement that established for the basic goals of women to get the social, political, economic and personal rights. Feminism comes sometime as a unitary concept but sometimes it analyzes as a multifaceted ideas by many writers and theorists who have their own definitions. According to Chris Weldon women's liberation is a legislative issue.

Feminism can be defined by the feminist theorists according to their use but they all are having the same thoughts about the position of women in society that they are inferior due to their weak sex. Freedman says; one could argue that all feminists call for changes in the social, economic, political or cultural order, to reduce and eventually overcome this discrimination against women (Freedman, 2001). Feminism is against gender discrimination which affects woman. In Greek, Aristotle had described woman as an inferior and weak to man and was called to deform males in his book *Politics*.

In 1872, term feminism or feminist emerged in France as *Les Feministes* and it finally reached to United State in 1910. Men had rejected the movement because it stood for the rights of women. In 15th century, the word feminism had observed in *The Book of the City of Ladies* (1405) and *Epistle to God of love* by Christine De Pizan. These writings were considered as a feminist writing by Simon De Beauvoir. The subjects like denounce misogyny and relation of sex were discussed in those books.

In the first wave of feminism, women switched out from household activities to do jobs equally to men. They served as soldiers. Susan Anthony (1954) was a leader in civil rights movement. She introduced women's suffrages in America. Later in 1919 a Canadian woman got right to vote.

Third world Feminism was called postmodern feminist movement. It started with quality motivated feminism in 1990's. It solved issues of first and second waves of feminism. The movement welcomed the different theories like womanism, transnationalism, queer theory and anti - racism. These therapies performed important part to promote women's freedom and rights. These theories tried to give identification to marginalized women.

Ashcroft composes about the women rights as a postcolonial writings. Azra depicts the life of woman which is influenced due to colonizing. Azra states that women were kept away from school concerned. They sat separately in the study hall and had no chance to take interest in any exercise or discussing society. They made their own little world (Azra, 2000, P.47).

Many writers have written about the problems of women by relating them to feminism. Ibsen's play *The Doll House* (2008) is related to feminism. Ibsen is the remarkable writer of feminism. In his writing, he favors the freedom and emancipation of woman. He has portrayed the chains of social convention and highlighted the women issues in his writing.

The above-mentioned writers have portrayed the images and issues of western women. They have made their impression throughout the world. In the colonial period, English literature was spread vastly. Pakistani writers got courage to write in this perspective.

The Victorian period is known very well about emancipation of women. The liberty of women began at that time and its light reached throughout the world. The authors of that age became successful literary person through writing the sufferings of woman against the customs and norms of society in which Jane Austin, Bronte sisters and Thomas Hardy are remarkable. Their writings boosted the confidence of women. Maya Anglo, the post modern writer highlights the issues of woman in the poem, "I identify why the Caged Bird Sings", she uses subjects such as identity, literacy, rape and racism by giving the

reference of her life story. She uses a very different way to show the woman's life in a male dominated society.

Research Methodology

The study is to enquire the selected work with the theory of feminism. Hunburtine Auclert used the feminism theory in her Journal *La Citoyenne as La Feminitè* for the first time in France in 1880. She demanded the women's rights and criticized male domination. The term Feminism firstly began to use in English in Britain, then it was used in 1910s in America and by 1920s in the Arab World as Niswia.

The study is related to qualitative research and the purpose of study is to find the textual analysis of selected work with the help of the term Feminism. The qualitative research methodology has been used to analyze Sana Munir's depiction of women and critically examine her work. The study's eminent the facts about feminism in it. It supports to get knowledge about the term Feminism in depth.

In the twentieth century, women achieved those rights which were impossible to get earlier. The women were involved in affairs other than the domestic one in postwar era. *The Problem that Has No Name*, Betty Friedan raised the voice of million women who were suffering and enduring troubles with silence (Shriver, 2010). Through her writing, she promoted the feminine concept which influenced so many women. Her attempt rose in second wave of feminism and her work was most influential of the twentieth century (Meyer & Rohlinger, 2012). Pandey (2003) highlights the significance of Feminism in literature. In the very famous novel *Possessing of the Secret of the Joy* by 'Alice Walker' (1992) writer described about the main character whose name is Tashi and what happened with Tashi is not bearable by any person. The story of *An Untamed State* is about a woman called Mircille who had violated sexually and endured a hard time of sufferings. Jessica Benjamin (1998) defined and supported the identification, comparison and contrastive analysis of Feminist literary criticism.

Virginia Woolf's participation was great as Feminist and modernist. She supported the women financial matters through her work, due to these reasons, their freedom is restricted. She described women issues in *A Room of One's Own*, "one minor point-a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction." The writings of Julia Kristeva, Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* (1953), Helene Cixous and Luce Irigaray are prominent to talk about the women rights. Female writers found ways in area of feminism that provided the knowledge and awareness of feminism.

Ordinary women in extraordinary settings

It deals with textual analysis of Sana Munir's *Unfettered Wings* (2018). The method has been used to focus on the women representation in these stories. More this chapter has been concentrated on the stories portray the social, psychological, financial and emotional issues of women who are living in Pakistani society. In Sana's stories women characters are brave, strong, realistic and active. The names of characters are Farida, Reema, Maria, Sommi, Habiba, Nazia, Saima, Beena and Emaan.

The book is about the short stories of Pakistani women from different walk of lives and social background. The book is about the strength of Pakistani women who are brave and fortitude of relationships in ordinary setting that

is unfolded into extra ordinary circumstances. They are the real life characters who have the same issues that are as timeless as they are contemporary.

Sana weaves each women character into a story and woven the story that any women may be in Pakistan, India or a first world country can relate and emphasize with each other. She has artistically portrayed the life of women characters with different ages in Pakistan and Afghan Area. Each and every story is unique which makes this book valuable to read. Mostly the stuff of the book deals with the class and patriarchy in conservative household setting. The Sad part of the story is that is mostly hunters of the women are those who are their protectors, who are trusted by the women. Those women have different struggles in different area of the world, all the stories present the compassion, resistance and strength of women in different conditions but the feature and characteristic remain same and universal. Women folk in the subcontinent are commonly considered as meek but the stories are powerful, which portray the ordinary conflicts and ordinary heroes in everyday life.

These ten short stories are about the different women of different age and background. Each story is titled with the women name that gives a glimpse of what each story is talking about. All the stories carry from the perspective of the woman.

Farida

The eldest child in the family whose story at the age of ten begins during partition when she and her family leave from Patiala to Lahore. The premise of the departure story relives the horror of partition. She has to live with terrible night mare of partition riots. Her story is narrated from the perspective of a child that leaves the reader feeling emotional. Through then innocent eyes of the little girl Farida, reader sees the drawing of political borders and the destruction of many families. She caught in the midst of the partition who was lost everyone dear to her, finally she married a man who was twice her age for the sake of refuge.

Unfettered Wings (2018) Sana draws our attention to the depiction of women in Pakistani society, that they are brave, mature, courageous and responsible even they are child, young and in old age, as mentioned in the story.

She talks about the motherhood and motherly figures in her stories. She relates many characters of the stories with motherhood as the female character Farida's mother, and her aunt, when the family was discussing their migration from Patiala to Lahore. There was horror of the riots at that time those were always ready to attack and set the fire to the houses. At that scary moments the mothers had kept their babies in their laps and made them secure. They are worried about the critical circumstances but they fed and cared their children.

The babies had nestled into the softest cushions of their mother's fleshy bodies (Munir,3).

In the story Sana Munir shows the relationship of mother and daughter that how mother of Farida shows her worry about her daughter when Farida is going outside to see her father and to ask about the previous night's incident.

"Where to?" Her mother called from behind. She heard her mother's footsteps behind her, as if she was running to stop her (Munir, 2018, p.12).

In the same story, Sana describes that how mother has to

manage her babies at the same time by taking care of other kids and doing activities of household chorus.

Her mother had managed to put one of the babies to sleep. The other was beginning to wail for milk. Farida noticed fear in her mother's eyes (Munir, 2018, p.6).

In Farida's story, when Farida 's father has decided to stay back at Patiala to attend the land, then Farida's mother became worried for her children that if something bad happened at the back with her husband so what would be happened with her children.

Her mother had huddled together Farida's two baby brothers and brought them closer to herself (Munir, 2018, p.4).

Reema

Reema's life mirrors many incidents from the patriarchal society. Her sadness and naivety are well described. She is the embodiment of sexual abuse with the innocent mind. She was the most powerful girl. Her story grimes horribly and realistically so she stands out in this respect. She was raped by her uncle in her childhood. Reema has several embarrassing anachronisms. Her story is heart breaking of childhood sexual abuse and trauma. It speaks itself about the pain and sufferings of an unimpeachable mind, the unspoken words never harm others but in the long run the shake the world, upside down. Reema who faced betrayal from her loved ones remained disturbed and heartbroken in all her life through the childhood exploitation. It was panic when she was relieving those memories that no woman should ever have to think of.

The author here shows the strong bond between mother and daughter. When Reema's Uncle Billu raped her, the only thing she could tell to her father that I need mum.

"I want Mommy" (Munir, 2018, p.37).

Reema couldn't tell her mother that what happened with her but being a mother, she had known what had happened to her.

She told her mother that she had fallen down in the attic and had her face bruised. Nargis felt her all over.....

Reema could hear her mother sob from a distance (Munir, 2018, p.37).

In Reema's story when her mother knew what had happened with Reema, her life became totally changed. She became more careful, protective and silent.

Reema saw many changes in her mother after that night and one was the absence of her bubbly laughter. She laughed at jokes; sure, she was a lively person. But she stopped swaying with her cackles.

Her mother became very protective of Reema's whereabouts too. To Reema, it was as if her motherly instincts had gone crazy (Munir, 2018, p.38).

Maria

Maria the wanton one shared special bond with a man, who was much younger than her. For Maria, love and relationships matter not. She was the prostitute with whom Asif a Persian rug trader falls in love. She was not bound in any ties but her malignant action ruined the life of Baseer. The story is told from the man point of view that loses his sleep over her and stands outside her mansion daily to see her glimpse. He finally gets approach to her after waiting of days but soon he realized that for Maria love has no meaning. He understood why so many men came to her. He left her mansion with broken heart but he kept mansion in

his heart and she stayed in his subconscious when he loved to his wife, who bore him four children.

Summi

Summi was very intellectual and mature protagonist of the book whose maturity and wisdom bolster her husband. She shares love and understanding with her husband, was marvelous. She shares the painful burden of her husband's past. She was the wife of soldier and she was brave like a soldier. She bore the guilt of her husband's past and she plowed on in life. She showed bravery to leave the soldier in awe. She lived her life without complaining and endured his husband guilt.

Sumi is a powerful and strong soldier wife she lived her life without complaining and endured her husband guilt of his past. She shares the Burdon of her husband. She never complains to handle the mad mother of her husband's friend. Her husband was surprised about his wife's bravery and praised her. "When in actual, he was in awe of her bravery and courage. He could not believe how tact fully and lovingly she dealt with the mad old woman. (Munir, 86).

His wife takes the responsibility of his dead friend Nadir's mad mother. She doesn't take it as burden and doesn't complain about her hysteric condition but she always praises her husband valour. But in Sumi case, she saw the old woman every day. She clothed her, fed her and put her to bed. She dealt with her lunacy on a regular basis. One day if she was easy to handle, the next day her hysterics would be uncontrollable. Yet he never heard Summi complain. His wife was bearing the burden of his guilt while she sang song for him being the bravest soldier in the land; she outsized him in valour, spirit and selflessness. The realization made him feel smaller than he had felt while turning away the old afghan (Munir, 2018, p.86-87).

Habiba

She took bullet for her kindness towards a stranger. Her father was a contract killer who committed kidnapping high people. Habiba was rebellious who has a heart of gold, feels sympathy for the prisoner who was kidnapped by her father and then she finally meets her fatal and just because of an act of kindness towards him. It was misunderstood as adultery. She follows the strict purdah and remains cut off from outside world. The unmitigated violence in the name of honour killing stuns the reader. But she was killed by her brother. Just because she defied the pardah rule and gave food to the captives.

In Habiba story, Sana depicts the female character as a bold, brave and soft hearted who received bullets for her kindness towards a strange prisoner who was kidnapped by her father.

Habiba couldn't understand what the tanned man was saying but the angry abuse of her brother made her comprehend the situation a little.... the chill of the night had probably forced the prisoner to ask for a blanket and Sikandar, the tough night guard, had turned the request down. She felt ashamed of her brother ...a Pukhtoon who could not treat his guest right. She walked out with her blanket. Sikandar was still spitting insults. She patted him on the shoulder and he turned around, startled. "What are you doing here?" He almost barked. "Give him the blanket. It is cold out here." She wasn't bothered by his tone (Munir, 2018, p.104).

In the same story she offered food to the prisoner when she

realized that he was hungry. She was a generous and good hearted when she saw the prisoner injured on his ankle, she felt pain in her heart and sympathy for him, and ran to pick a medicines for him, only due to this she got bullet from her brother in the name of honor.

Habiba complied and handed him over the bread. She was about to turn back when she saw that his ankles were bleeding and the wounds were gathering pus. She cringed a little but the prisoner could not see the alteration in her facial expression, not only because she was covered in a veil but also because he was eating hungrily like a famished dog (Munir, 2018, p.109).

Nazia

She has legally fought her way out of a nefarious relationship and is now resurrecting her life from scratch. She has escaped from her abusive husband. She wants to find herself ostracized by the society. The society regards her as guilty part. She was divorced woman. She was married without consent. Her husband was cruel then she finally got courage to break the traditional norms of society. She was single mother who absconded her disrespectful husband but she was considered at fault by the society. She wished to live a happy, balanced and peaceful life. Her story tells about the courage of a divorced woman to stand up against the society. She was a strong willed woman.

In Nazia's story, she was the mother of one child but she got divorce from her unkind husband and she stood against traditional norms of society when his father asked her to go with her on Mustafa's court meeting with his father. Sana shows her strength in a way:

"No papa." She jerked herself upright to show her father that she was strong enough to take on the task herself. I shall be fine, she reassured him..... so, she didn't want to physically stress him out as well (Munir, 2018, p.132).

In the same story, Nazia could not forget the miseries which she received from her husband Asad but when she was in the court to meet her child with his father, She shows her strength of a woman as being mother is like that: Nazia, too, had not forgiven Asad and was always reminded of all the agony he had caused her. There on the bench, sitting beside Imran, when she saw Asad staring at her with blood shot eyes, she let go of all fear. She did not care anymore whether people would talk behind her back about having an affair with another man or sharing a paratha with him out in the open. She did not care if Asad would call her whore (that was his pet word for her all the time she was married to him) (Munir, 2018, p.138).

Furthermore, she demands about her child back confidently from her husband when they are in the court and doesn't care what her previous husband and people think about her: "Time up, she declared like an officer on duty. I was always right about you, he said between gritted teeth, looking at Imran but speaking to Nazia.

"Yes keep telling yourself that, Asad. May be the pain of your loss will lessen that way. Now my son needs me." She held Mustapha's hand and hugged him tightly (Munir, 2018, p.139).

Saima

She was a police inspector, who shows her mark in the man's world of crime investigation. She was very brave and courageous. She was an active and interesting crime

thriller who investigated a complex case. She was a strong, independent woman as well as the inspector who untangled the bride murder with her widow.

In her story, the author shows the woman who marks her marking in investigating of woman's murder crime:-

His voice was becoming smaller with every question. Saima observed him with interest. He was her suspect, alright, but she wanted to arrive to the conclusion of him being the culprit after knowing him through his words and not through the file a rookie officer had prepared for her (the file was complete with details starting from his birth certificate to his father's death certificate) (Munir, 2018, p.143).

In the next lines of the story, Sana reflects the splendid characteristic of a female character in her story Saima who is police officer and investigating a woman's murder:-

His answer had been quite straight till now. But she was just warming him up. She closed the file, got up from her seat and walked behind him. He froze, not knowing what, she in mind. The fitted pants and shirts on a policewoman were quite intimidating for the man who sat in a loser's position in the small cubicle, with one blood red coloured build that only threw light on the table. With him sitting in the chair and her standing behind him in the dark, he was visibly petrified (Munir, 2018, p.144).

Sana is describing the woman character, strong bold, confident and independent through this story:-

Beena

The next story is about Beena, who is the mother of single child as well as gynecologist she fulfills her duties vigilantly. She plans to celebrate her wedding anniversary with her husband and she gives importance to the relations:-

She was a doctor by profession-a-gynecologist, to be precise, the public hospital at which she worked, housed two-hundred beds in the maternity ward. Although she was only one of the forty three doctors at the obstetrics and gynecology department, she knew she was indispensable. The patients outnumbered the doctors, every day, in such situations; it was very tough to take a day off. However she had a plan under her belt for an upcoming special occasion (Munir, 2018, p.172).

Sana depicts her character Beena who gives importance to the relation and loves her husband a lot and wants to be loved in back by her husband.

She left him with his colleges, who had gathered around to congratulate them both. He offered to drop her till the exit or at least, till the elevator, but she declined. "Save it for tonight". She smiled meaningfully at him and urged him to go play host for his colleges. Feeling elated, for the plan was running smoothly

Irfan came back to a perfumed, powdered and dressed-up wife who was embraced and fondled by the tired husband (Munir, 2018, p.177).

Meera

In one of the short story, Meera who was professor of political science and she was teaching in the Punjab university she didn't get marry but she was living a life successful. She was independent.

The one thing that really messed with Meera's head was someone calling her Mrs. Meera Malik. She found it very presumptuous on their part to assume she was a missus.

"Miss", she hissed every time that she had to correct them. Her sharp nose, arched eyebrows and thin lips accentuated her curt and crisp voice (Munir, 2018, p.183).

Although Meera was retired from her job yet students insisted her to continue her job as she was a good lecturer and she has altered her whole life for spreading the education as she was sincere to her job.

Meera could compare those times to now because she was an aging icon of the department she served. She had retired five years ago, at the age of sixty two but the rest of the staff comprising her students had insisted that she keep an adhoc position for the postgraduate and PhD students. Meera had willingly agreed. After all, she had given all her youth and age to the political science department as a teacher, instructor, adviser and chairperson.... there had been different labels during the years. Other than her loyalty, the unavoidable fact was that she had nothing else to keep her as busy as the department did (Munir, 2018, p.184).

She was agile and active, and yet, there was no denying the fact that she had aged. The white on her head was not the only thing indicating her experience and observation in life, but also the wrinkles on her face, the smile and frown lines, the crows feet and the heather colored bags under the sunken grey eyes- all were pointing towards the late sixties she was pushing through (Munir, 2018, p.191).

Emaan

Zainab was the mother of three sons who realized the true significance of motherhood, only after giving birth to a girl child with down syndrome. The mother emerges with the birth of a girl child, when zainab gave birth to Emaan only then she realized the true strength of a mother as a woman. She is shifting another mother into the world to keep the God's system running. Every female is prepared to be mother men before her own birth and this is the reason to welcome a girl child. Emaan is a distinct girl. She is a champion. She fights against the all odds and gets victory even in the condition of misery to face the medical condition. Zainab, who is the mother of Emaan, her love for her children especially for her girl child, is remarkable. It was unconditional love for her child. There were different ways in which faith tests them. This is a story about how a mother discovers that her daughter is a blessing in disguise. The mother's courage never goes to an end as her daughter Emaan fought her Down syndrome since her birth.

Conclusion

Women representation in Sana Munir 'stories *Unfettered Wings* (2018) can be seen in a wide range. The stories portray a comprehensive and complete depiction of women by describing the social, domestic, emotional and psychological problems of women. Pakistani and western writers have shown the miseries of the women in their writings. They highlighted issues which are related with women as child marriage, forced marriage, rape, honor killing, physical violence as well as psychologically, in addition they are considered weak easily to be suppressed and subjugated and insecure in the world which is dominant by man. But the female protagonists of Sana in her stories *Unfettered Wings* are active, brave, strong and realistic. *Unfettered Wings* is a collection of short stories about Pakistani women who belong to different social

background. The women in all the stories show their strength, power, bravery, courage and fortitude of relationship in ordinary setting that is unfolded into extraordinary circumstances. For Sana Munir, Feminism is not a mere school of thought or ideology but it is a way of living, rooted in essential moral principles of equality, humanity, acceptance and justice. This is a powerful book that presents the day to day relatable lives of ten women from Pakistan; everyone is in different situation and with facing particular conflicts. Each story is unique which makes the book valuable.

The foundation of study is laid on the three main objectives. The primary objective is exploring the depiction of empowered women in Sana Munir's *Unfettered Wings* (2018). The objective is met with the theory of feminism and the book *Unfettered Wings* (2018). The primary question is how Sana Munir depicts empowered women in her short stories *Unfettered Wings* (2018).

Unfettered Wings is about the courageous women who show their strength, support and potential to enable them to present their empowerment. Although their lives are full of tragedies yet at the end they give the lesson of courage, bravery and strength. They have their own identities. The story present an insight into the lives of ordinary women as they are facing and handling extraordinary situations and circumstances in this society that doesn't accomplish their needs, rights and preferences. These societal set pattern norms have covered up their thoughts and opinions on the issues of repression.

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