

Pursuance for Identity and Self Love in the Leema Dhar's Novel "You Touched My Heart" (echoes of love and a nightmare)



R.Viswanathan

Abstract— *The present study deals with the finding and searching of herself which brings her satisfaction of knowing her self-identity in her life. They discuss their life that she lived in the past and she left her house in order to find herself at the end of the novel, she finds that these are the once who makes her individuality from the birth of her in this world. The purpose of the study is to explain how her parents are helping the daughter, Leema to find her identity in this novel but beginning of the novel she blames her parents and finally they are the once who show more care towards her. This study mostly tells about the problems of the author how she struggles to find herself in the world she meets an old artist; he is the one who explained about the reality of the life. He is a murderer but she understands that every budding person starts with a dark past. Then she meets Cruz and Laine, during this time she rejoice herself in the quest of love. She wants his love towards her but in reality, Cruz loves Laine finally they died of an accident made by their fathers. This incident makes a major impact in self she finds her answer for the web of mystery by herself with the help of old artist. Finally, she gets to know that for all her behaviors make her as a mature person only because of the guidance of her parents. In this novel they did not talk much about the importance of parents but this research paper deals with the importance of the parents how they project the world to their children. Leema leaves home to find her identity but she returns with her father's identity because old artist is her grandfather. This research paper concludes that every single happenings of life will be connected with their family's identity and also once fate.*

Keywords: *Self-identity, Individuality, Quest, Paternal relation, Political game*

I. INTRODUCTION

Leema Dhar was born on 22 December 1993 in Allahabad, India. Leema dhar is a prominent and budding Indian fiction author. She is a novelist, columnist, and motivational speaker too. She pursued humanities in her graduation in psychology and English literature. She also finished Master of Arts in English from University of Allahabad. Her genres are fiction, romance, and thriller. Leema dhar left her AIEEE Rank for her creative passion. She has been nominated thrice consecutively for "HINDUSTAN TIMES WOMEN ACHIEVER AWARDS" (2011,2012,2013). She is the daughter of Samir (who is the

bestselling author in Bengali) and Mausami (who is a teacher of St. Mary's convent). At a tender age ALL INDIA RADIO picked her up as the YOUTH ICON (2013). She is honoured in the 28th conference of the authors from India and Canada (2015) she became the newsmaker of 2012 and 2015. Her famous wordings "you are who you are /when nobody's watching".

She says creative writing depends on the observation, madness, and imagination of a novelist. Leema Dhar's first poem titled 'Sundar Heera' got published in national daily newspaper Amar Ujala, first anthology of Hindi poems 'Kuch Lafz Naquab' (2007). The same year English Poem 'A Conversation With God' and the anthology of English poems 'For The hundred tomorrows' (2010). Her famous novels are Till We Meet Again (2012), Mom And I Love A Terrorist (2012), The Girl Who Kissed The Snake (2013), You Touched My Heart (2013), et al.

Leema Dhar's *YOU TOUCHED MY HEART (echoes of love and a nightmare)*. In this novel she speaks about the quest for her self-identity, longing for love from friends and her parents, and the relationship between the loving parents and the daughter. This novel mainly deals with the theme of quest for self in life as well as in literature. Narrative structure is like the conversation through the main character (Leema). Leema Dhar shows up the thirst for her own identity in her life and his writings. So, she leaves home and the loving parents. She finally reached the hills, Mussoorie. In Mussoorie, she meets three people. One is old artist, who is painting some splendid and thought provoking canvas with his old aged fingers and sitting by the roadside. Then she meets with a guy Cruz, whom she becomes a friend and he is the one who acts as her buddy but at the end of the novel. We can understand that he is in love with the Laine.

Laine, who is the close friend of Cruz, he introduces Laine to Leema. After meeting Laine she feels bit jealousy about Laine and she realizes that she's been in love with him all the while. Laine has a dark past and Cruz has a messy life, both are in relationship but this is the secret political game plan of their fathers. The author has a thirst for love. She tried to search love in her friends, but she failed. She understands the reality of life after meeting an age old-artist. During the search of her identity, she lives in a hotel almost thirteen days of journey evokes thrilling sensation. At the end of the novel, she does not know what is going on? When she finds the answer to the web of mystery but she could not help them, they almost died.

Manuscript published on 30 August 2019.

*Correspondence Author(s)

Dr. R. Viswanathan, Assistant Professor of English, Thiagarajar College of Preceptors, Teppakulam, Madurai-09, Tamilnadu, India. (email: drvisva64@gmail.com)

© The Authors. Published by Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering and Sciences Publication (BEIESP). This is an [open access](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) article under the CC-BY-NC-ND license <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

At the end of the novel, she finishes with the great twist that old artist is her father's father. Her father get to know the truth behind is after reading the prison diary of the artist after the dark past of the artist life anew beginning is started because of Leema.

II. SELF-IDENTITY

"*YOU TOUCHED MY HEART*" is her fourth novel, which deals with one of the most important theme and sub-themes of literature that is "quest for self" in her life and also her writings. In general, every human behavior is centered on these endeavors coming in terms with the self. In English literature also, the quest for self is a predominant concern for authors of all genres. This research paper deals with search of Leema's independents, and the thirst for her identity in her life and also the literature. These topics are also related with the quest of love and also the relationship with the loving parents. Leema wants to leave her home. She wants full independence to invert herself as she wishes as writer. This paper mostly about the protagonist, who wants to prove herself individually? The main character of the novel is negotiating her thoughts through difficult situations in relation to her identity, as part of her family. "And here I handed in a heaven of hills. I don't know what step I would be taking next. Since I'm here, I really want to do this now. I want to reach out for my space; to spend the little I have of what is required to get the soulful Leema out of it. I want to reach the destination alone, but it had be great if I have a companion to walk the roads with me" (34-35)

These words are the voice of the protagonist. Her parents are not convinced about her behavior. So, she decides to leave her home. She doesn't know how to handle the outer world individually. She only picks her ATM card with her. She met an old artist during her travel; she admired lot about the old artist's painting except his part. His paintings are different from the others point of view. She says, "When you are standing on a bright day, you cannot realize the meaning of darkness" (43). Likewise she doesn't realize the darkness of the artist past in the jail. After this incident, she understands that everyone's personal life is different from their outer appearance. She is longing for the love and lovable caring because of this; she wants to make many friends in her life. She wants to know about the past life of old artist so; she reads the prison dairy of the artists. From this she gets to know that she is murdered. "He is been an abandoned by the family. He prefers loneliness, he is just a person who I guess deserves pain, if he actually a murderer". From this word of Cruz, Leema understand that old artist did not do it purposely. He is also in the searching of her identity as a painter.

Though her way of self-reflective journey, she wants to satisfy himself in the new world seen by her own eyes. Her searching is "may be on the voyage of finding a soul- mate, I had found a great friend!"(63) Soul mate refers of her behalf that is her identity, her writing and her friends. She wants to be author, she said "Life is not a fantasy fiction as you think; reality is far from your innovative truth. You need to find the truth yourself if you are so interest" (56) likewise R.K.Narayan says that "the products of his awareness of the gap between the dream and the reality and of an incongruous

relation between what is and what ought to be" (97 quoted. R.K.Narayan). She leaves home to search her identity. Her next chapter in this paper is how the parents helped her lot during her search of identity.

The next point deals with how the parents helped to gain her identity? After some days, she slowly thinks about her lovable parents how they helped her and teaches her moral values that are very useful for her to stand individually. She wants to write letter to mom that "I'm good and to tell dad not to worry and hold strong until I'm back" (64) after she read the mail of her parents, she understand how she missed her parents, her home and few friends I had. In her home, she learn same thing unknowing, while she learning she thinks that it not at all Important but it becomes a practice and home, she does that in every places it makes her unique from others. Such a simple thing but it show a mark of respect, etiquette and decent behavior "The shoes carry dirt from outside and a home is a heaven of dreams" this incident makes her to think about their parents, while she is filled with her parents memories.

Old artist said the quotes of Philip Whitmore. Sr "Any fool can be a father, but it takes a real man to be a daddy" this quotes impresses her lot, it influence her to go back her home but she wants to prove her individuality. While journey towards her identity, she also wants the lovable care of Cruz and Laine but she failed in that. Finally she understands that nobody will help you to coin yourself you'll have to coin your own end.

Novel beginning with their parents are the enemies for her individuality but at the end of the novel she understands that they are the children "real love begins where nothing is expected return" (128, qtd. robin Sharma). She failed in the quest of love and also she is helpless because of the mystery of Cruz and Laine , she finally comes to an end that parents are one who helps her to search her identity and also they are once who teaches the moral values to prove her uniqueness, individuality in the outer world. One should know that "sometime the biggest enemy of our life turns out to be the ambition that we have". In the life of old artist his enemy is her past life but he has a little consent for his son it comes true at the end of the novel. Everyone can under situation of others they will not hate for any reason, situation may change it will lead u positive point of view in every once life.

In this novel three kind of parental relation is described one is Leema and her parents, and old artist and her son, Cruz's and Laine's father. First we will see about the Leema and her parents who are always guided her towards the correct path but she does not have to with stand their care so she wants to lead her life by her own in the outer world. Her parents help her for this too she does not the value of good caring parents. She was not aware that her parents telling everything for her own. At the end of the novel she tries to explain the happening of everything to her during the thirteen days of journey but they doesn't trust the words of her it doesn't mean that they are not favors her daughter it happens because of her daughters situation. Every parent will understand their child but it needs time to change.

Next one is old artist he made mistake; he killed his wife it is only because of the situation not because he is bad.

If his son understands this he will not left him all alone for so many year it's all the fate of the person. Everybody is correct in their ways "no one is perfect..." Later his son has the chance to read the diary of his father that makes him to understand his situation then they united because of her journey.

At Finally Cruz and Laine, both fathers are made a political secret game plan for their goodness it makes them unhappy their father does show them the right path towards them. Instead of making them they killed their life for the sake of society. After seeing these three types of fathers may be their point of view is different from their children it takes time to understand if it is delayed by anyone it has its horrifying end like Cruz and the Laine.

III. SUMMING UP & RESULTS DISCUSSIONS

Author's points of view about the searching of her identity. A person's identity is very important in their life. This novel mingled with both the personal and the imaginary ideas of the author. Leema wants to prove her own identity in the outer world. So, she wants to leaves the home stays in the hotel nearly thirteen days. This paper is about how Leema negotiating her way through difficult situations in relation to her identity. Leema naturally strong person and willing to accept the reality of her actions in order to live her life the way she wanted to. Leema understand the reality of life after meeting to an age old artist. She realizes the reality that everybody has their own dark life behind their smiling real face. She beautifully explains that "where love puts a period and life begins after the makeup of break up". This paper deals with the Leema's point of view. She thinks that her search for identity is first and other things are next in her life, but she finally understands that it is completely a false idea. She gets to know that searching the self-individuality is important but more than that is parents care for their children. After meeting age old artist, she fully realizes that what is the reality of the life, what is expected to lead the life simply in the world. Cruz and Laine both are failed in their life because of their fathers. She also thinks that how the people using others for their own needs and pleasures.

Leema says that "Fate is conventional". No one can change the end. Writers like her create character and give them their own justified end." Nothing much is expected in everyone's life, everyone wants to lose their own self in the process of searching identity. finally she get to know that real searching of once identity is not to the outer world it is only for herself to identify their own self. This novel makes her to solve the problems of mystery individually without others but she failed in her quest of love in her friends and also fails to help them in the right time but that incident is stored deep in her life heart. They make sense in her life so, she ends the novel with this quotes "maybe...it's been your own love story... It's been our love story too. Surely and souls YOU TOCHED MY HEART. In the end of this project it concludes that Leema's search for identity is not fulfilled she wants, but she convinced by the reality of the life. Though this unexpected ending the author says that woman are searching the identity in the outer world but it is with in their self.

REFERENCE

1. Dhar, Leema. *You Touched My Heart: Echoes Of Love And A Nightmare*. Ed.Manju Gupta.General press. New Delhi.2013.print
2. *R.K.Narayan's Indian Myth and Reality*.Ed.Bhagwat S. Goyal .Sarup&Sons.Preethi Printers. New Delhi.(97).1993.print.
3. Pante, Amit. *Fragrance: An Interview with Leema Dhar*. Fragrance of writing. Blog spot.web.2015 Feb. 2.