

THE LIMITATION OF GIRL IN THE SOCIETY: MALALA YOUSAFSAI

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Abstract

Malala's struggle for women's access to public space is one of her declaration to the world that Islam does not mean hiding women behind the chadar or veil, but it is a peaceful religion that supports justice for humankind. It provides equal position and rights to both men and women in society. She presents in her work that Islam is all about affection and peaceful teachings for the well-being of all human beings and she also shows the world by defying the Taliban's interpretation that Islam never prevents a girl from developing her knowledge by getting an education, and getting some brilliant jobs for their needs. Moreover, a woman with a burqa does not mean that she does not have an identity but it symbolizes the truth of faith deeply rooted in her heart.

Keywords: girls, society, limitations, Islam, humankind, etc

Malala in her work I'm Malala points out that women are considered to spend their entire life at home. They were not allowed to peep into the outside business. All the responsibility at home is on the head of women, whereas men don't play any role inside it. Malala through the above statement in I'm Malala reflects the domination and authority that can be achieved by making money, and it is acknowledged that making money is a man's job. Moreover, by carrying out his job he exerts his power in his position. Thus, women's job as a cook, housekeeper, and child-bearer restricts her to participate in society. Thus, man dominates her and in his thought, she always remains as an inferior race.

This shows the gender inequality in the mind of parents. At this moment Malala recognizes the inequality between her and her brother. The above line signals how from the moment children are born, male children are prized over female children in almost the majority of families in Asia. After the gunshot, she herself says in her book She claims that

"Those who have fought for their rights: Their right to live in peace, with dignity, equality of opportunity, and education is stressed. Taliban thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed.

She openly announces that she does not have any personal revenge against the Taliban or any other terrorist group. She does not even hate the person who shot her. She has learned this compassion from Muhammad-the prophet of mercy, Jesus Christ, and Lord Buddha. She follows the path of Non-Violence. She has learned the philosophy of Non Violence from great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa.

The struggle of an individual with society is clearly depicted in this autobiography. Much of Malala's struggle circles against Malala's struggle against social inclinations. She was a victim of male chauvinism. Instead of sticking towards the norms of society, she fights back for her right to learn. Her father can also be looked at as an example of an individual against society. She tried to go against the grain by revolting against the rules imposed by a patriarchal society. Malala's father inculcates a true sense of rebellious spirit deep inside her. Despite the societal pressure that restricts her to step inside the doors of the school. Malala openly asserts that the Taliban can take the books and pens, but they will never be able to take away the positive spirit of thoughts that are still burning inside her mind. She still thinks questions and speaks out her mind and learns.

She tried to use her power of social and political activism to elicit social change. Malala and her Father's constant willingness to speak out and their hardship brought a massive change—a change for the better. Their shining example illustrates how grass-roots activism can make a difference. Despite all the terrible things around her, Malala's family remains closely bonded, and these strong senses of bond helped her in all her pathos. Her parents are true role models for her and her brothers are a source of love and comfort. The strength of Yousafzai family bonds is truly evident in the aftermath of Malala's shooting, as her family remains side by side even when she is taken to a different country to recover.

Malala's strong faith in Islam is the backbone of her successful life. Her family's faith helps them to withstand all their tough times. When the Taliban tries to misrepresent the true sense of Islam, Malala never lets go of her certainty that Islam is peaceful and tolerant, and her experience paints a much clearer picture of faith. Her life history contained many moments that defined her coming of age. She had primarily a carefree childhood in a beautiful valley. She enjoyed going to school and she was surrounded by people who love her. Her life took a twist when the Taliban took control of her valley. She was forced to witness the sufferings of millions of people around her. However, Malala matured gracefully, becoming an advocate for so many who were afraid or unwilling to speak out.

Living in a country where corruption, bribery, lies are common occurrences within the government, it was easy for Malala to distrust those around her. "Malala is free as a bird". (19) One of the major important lessons imparted to her by her parents is that honesty is the best policy. Malala's father throughout her childhood constantly reminds her that she is a free bird.

This shows how broad-minded her father is. Even though she is a female, according to her father she is free and can achieve whatever she sets out to. In conservative Pashtun society, women are far less valued than men, but Malala's father builds her up from the moment she is born, empowering her to become an outspoken activist.

Under the Taliban, rule freedom is practically nonexistent. People are controlled by the Taliban in every way starting from how they dress to how they worship. The innocent people follow the Taliban's law due to the fear of death. Women are particularly controlled, and though Malala has been lucky enough to receive an education.

Malala inspires the world to stand up for what you believe is right even if you are the only one. Even though many people were against her thoughts and she got rejected several times., she never turned back. By standing up for what was right, Malala accomplished things she dreamt of. Just like many great leaders, Malala had a dream, and even with hurdles along the way, her passion and determination conquered everything and made her dreams a reality. They shot my friends, too. They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed". Through the quote, Malala elucidates that even though she was violently put into silence, she did not let that stand as a barrier in her way to her goal. Even though the Taliban did not agree with her ideas, she still stood up for her thoughts. She is still standing up for her beliefs with complete awareness of the future consequences that she may have to suffer.

With the help of a beautiful simile, the days spend in the Kushal School. She openly confesses that it was like a magical moment growing up and spending every day in the school. The school was like a sanctuary, a place where she and her friends could be themselves and focus solely on education. Even during the Taliban's occupation of Swat, they could not take away their indescribable love for education. All the symbols expressed by Malala throughout her work have a deeper sense of significance. When Malala and her family leave swat valley because of the threat of the Taliban, Malala repeatedly wonders whether her school books will be safe or not, when she will be able to study them, and so on. For Malala her books symbolize the education she hopes to receive in the future. They are a source of hope that she will be able to accomplish her goal of promoting schooling for all girls. The burqa which is a full-body garment covering even face is a symbol of the Taliban's oppression of women. It symbolizes the way a woman is forced to hide her identity, her dreams, and her desires.

The school bus on which Malala was shot becomes the symbol of tragedy. The bus was meant to be a safe place for the children, but like many other things Taliban corrupted it. Malala firmly maintains the point that everything that she said was of her own accord. Malala's family constantly fears that Ziauddin, Malala's father, will be the one targeted by the Taliban because of the way he speaks against atrocities of the Taliban.

Malala's father felt that education was the only way Afganistan can move out of the seemingly perpetual cycle of war and oppression. He especially saw the education of girls as a key to a better future. No one thinks even for a second that the Taliban is cruel enough to target a little girl like Malala. It is quite ironic. Malala and many other Muslims believe that Islam is a peaceful religion, a religion that respects and values women and encourages tolerance and acceptance. The Taliban claims to be fighting in the name of Islam, and yet goes against the accepted Islamic Values.

Malala's appearance drastically changes after she was shot, and she knows that seeing her like this is a big shock for her family, who was always attached to her beautiful bright smile. Malala wants to make it clear that, though she may look different, she is still the same Malala, and the Taliban was not able to take away her spirit. According to Malala the best way to solve problems and fight against war is through dialogue. Girls all over the globe can learn from Malala's story. She taught the world that when you speak out and you risk everything, the world would listen. She gave the world a great message that "When you believe, you can do anything". She made the world realize that there is a lot of work to be done and urged them to dream big. According to her, to dream means to think bigger. She trained the girls to never put limits on themselves.

Yousafzai's story proves that nothing is impossible. Despite facing major obstacles, she has managed to establish herself as an important force in driving forward female education across the world. She focuses on the solutions to solving the problems, both within Pakistan and on a global scale, rather than enduring the wrong ordeals of the Taliban. She moved on the right path following her passion. She is the symbol of positive change and conviction. The book generates many critical arguments like unwelcome birth of girl child, the struggle of a child for education, brainwashing of citizens on the name of religion, and insensitivity of military and government for their own people. The major parts of the book include various nuances of terrorism and Talibanization. The impacts of these kinds of conflicts create ghastly conditions of viciousness and harassment, especially for women. Malala shows immense courage to ask hard questions to the President of Pakistan about the rehabilitation and education of girls. The focal point of the book is our world has witnessed many crises but there is no true leader to represent it. Women in all walks of life are abandoned. Malala vigorously expands the significance of education in the lives of girls and their fortitude to attain it. The education of girls is necessary for the sustainable development of the economy of a country.

She describes the psychological trauma of a family whose daughter was shot by the Taliban, who have the fear of losing other family members, poverty, and the pain of not able to accompany their daughter for treatment. Malala's interpretation of Muslims or the presentation of her non-violent approach is deeply linked to Mahatma Gandhi's peaceful teachings. Malala in her narrative also presents the teachings of Abraham Lincoln. "Teach him, if you can, the

wonder of books ...Teach him it is far honorable to fail than to cheat" (59) Malala quotes Abraham sayings to present a reflection of her development towards her beliefs and to make us clear why she humanizes the Taliban. It provides context to Malala's beliefs from which we can identify the teachings which she follows in her life.

According to Derrida language is constructed out of hidden hierarchies, it can be argued that the sign "girl" is a binary opposition of a "man". In the case of Malala's story "Taliban" is the symbol of man. On one hand, the signifier "girl" in opposition to the Taliban creates a hierarchy between where a girl is signified as innocent because of her innocence. The Taliban connotes "power". Thus, Malala's journey signifies that a girl which stands as a symbol of innocence can deconstruct the power of the Taliban.

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