

A Portrait of A·chik women as reflected in Jonmoni D. Shira poem ‘Anga Me·chik’ or ‘I the women’

Dr. Dorothy R Marak
Assistant Professor
Captain Williamson Sangma State University

The portrait of women or feminism is important topic of discussion in the literature of all times in many languages. According to Cambridge Dictionary, the term Feminism is “the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power, and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or set of activities indented to achieve this state”. It is an organized effort to give women the same economic, social, and political rights as men. In Wikipedia, “Feminism is a range of socio-political movements and ideologies that aims to define and established the political economic and social equality of the sexes. Feminism incorporates the position that societies prioritize the male point of view, and that women are treated unjustly within those societies. Efforts to change that include fighting against gender stereotypes and establishing educational, professional, and interpersonal opportunities and outcomes for women that are equal to those for men”.

Literature has witnessed the role of women through ages. This particular topic reflects the status of women in A·chik society. There are numbers of poet who wrote a poem on Feminism; among them are Kosan G. Momin poem Segrini Sintia or “Morn of the widow”. This poem portrait the emotional response and the undergoing pain of the women hood after losing her husband. It reflects the morn of the woman and her deep sense of loneliness. The poem also depicts how women live a lonesome life without husband and child and the struggle for livelihood or search for means in the absence of her husband.

Next poet is Meckenson Rongmity in his poem Randi Me·chikni Sintia or “Morn by the Widow”. This is another poem which portraits the morn by the woman as no relatives to whom she can lend or stand.

The other poet is Jonmoni D Shira was born at Nishangram village in October 1914. And Jonmoni D. Shira is also a Feminist poet in those days. Her poems ‘Do·kru’ or ‘Dove’ and ‘Daisy’, was published in 1941. The other poems ‘Basako’ or ‘When’ and ‘Miksongani’ or ‘Aims’ were published in different journals of A·chik Ku-rang in 1942. Among her poem ‘Anga Me·chik” or “I the Women” is another which reflect the position of A·chik women. She is one of the best Poets among the Garo women in those days. The poet has tried to outline the thought of the women, the problem; it also tried to convey the feeling and emotion of the women. The aims and objective of this paper is to discuss the reflection of women which show how feminist consequence is portrait in A·chik poem.

The life of A·chik womanhood is reflected in Jonmoni D. Shira’s poem ‘I the women’. This is one of her poem which clearly shows how A·chik women are treated in those days. The poet expresses her deep feeling how women are considered by the society. It also depict that Women are born to bear all the difficulties and troubles. Though how much they try to resolve to eradicate the problems but could not give a solution.

Atchiaha Me-chik ong·e

Pilak duko ra-na,

English Translation:

Born as a woman

To bear all the difficulties,

The poet gives her opinion about the status of A-chik women with religious overtones or by using a biblical illusion, its talks about the disgrace attached to the women in the scriptures. She accepts it because Eve has committed a sin and this is the cause the women have to go through all the difficulties in life and suffer much more than the man.

Poet reveals that traditionally it is belief that women are born with disadvantages and she has to bear that are imposed to her by the society. Women are considered to be male dominance, since very young they are not allow to move freely. To set for a journey from one place to another is not even in their dreams. The poet express how women life is since childhood, they are born weaker than man and carry all the burden of bearing and raising children. Women works from morning till dawn, the duties of a woman is heavy, as it includes the entire domestic cores as well as working side by side with a man as the bread winner.

Poet portraits the social injustice to women; the poem reflect how the A-chik women are taught since childhood to submit to male domination, in regards to what is right and wrong as women are not allowed to utter a single word in front of the elders, or in any gathering. Woman is bound by the social rules and custom and hinders her not to have a contact with others and outside worlds. Accordingly, the mind of Garo women has shape and nature the fear for man. Women are denied her right to speak or to express her feeling or opinions though she understands the subject matter clearly.

Dambemiting salrangonin

Dongna nangjok ning·o,

English Translation:

From young age

Live under the male dominance,

The poet also depicts the unfairness of the society. The poem reflect when the women fall in love with the young man of her choice, she is force by her elders to give her approval to another man whom she did not love at all.

The poem also give a clear picture of a family life, it reflected when the women started a family life, the more pain she has to undergo, giving birth to a child is considered to be women duty, for silly mistake, husband slap her. Taking care of children she is unable to sleep late night, but the husband takes no interest of finding the truth.

The poet portraits the struggles of the women, it does depict how the A-chik women work hard in life after married. She goes to the jhum field early in the morning, work in the field whole day and return home with heavy loads. When reaching home she has to do all the household chores and work till late night.

The poem represents how woman struggle and work hard in life. It describes how A·chik woman are treated inhuman after getting married. She has look after the children. Slowly women are taken less care by her husband. Due to hard work and restlessness slowly she started to become unwell and look ugly, so the husband looks for another woman.

Neng·skime be·en ramjok

Anga nitojajok,

Angse danang sakgipinko

Amna gisik najok.

English translation:

Physically become thin due to hard work

Ugly I looked

My husband long for another

Desired in his mind

Conclusion: This paper gives an analysis of feminist perception as reflected in Jonmoni D. Shira poem ‘Anga Me·chik’ or ‘I the Woman’. It also reflected the significance of A·chik women. The poet draws her attention that women are not given equal status as men, they are considered to be weaker section. Its highlight the injustice and oppression done to the women. So, the Poem ‘I The women’ reflect the social life of the A·chik women. The poet represents the deep feeling and emotion of the women and the injustice rule followed by the societies in those days. But now the time has change due to education; and modernization the status of the A·chik women has uplift, equal right and opportunities are given to the women in different field.

Book Reference:

1. Shira Lindrid D. (2013), *A·chik Poedorang Bak –I*. Students’ Book Emporium, Seven Edition.
2. Marak Caroline R. (1985), *Influence of English on Garo Poetry*. Scholar publishing house, New Delhi.
3. Sangma Milton S. (2007), *History of Garo Literature*. D. J Publication third Edition.
4. Playfair, M. A. (1909). *The Garo*. Ringrey, Tura: D J. Publication.
5. Sangma, B. K. (2002). *A·chik Katta-Ku·jikke*. Chandmari, Tura: B. K. Sangma.
6. Sangma, W. (1990). *A·chik Kattarang*. Tura: Winnish Sangma.