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**PATRIARCHAL PSYCHOLOGY IN MAHESH DITTANY'S
WHERE THERE'S WILL**



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ABSTRACT:

We can not think Indian Social Structure without the Patriarchy. Basically Indian Society is male centered. According to sociologies, the family in the Indian Society is dominated by male and it is he who is considered as the head of the Family. He enjoys the power over his Family Members is unquestionable, since he is the head of the family, the Freedom is hardly given to the other members of the Family especially to the women. Being the head of the Family and More Powerful than others in the Family, the important decisions are taken in the aspects of an individual's Marriage, Property etc. Mahesh Dattani Portrates Patriarchal Psychology through his play 'Where There's a Will'.

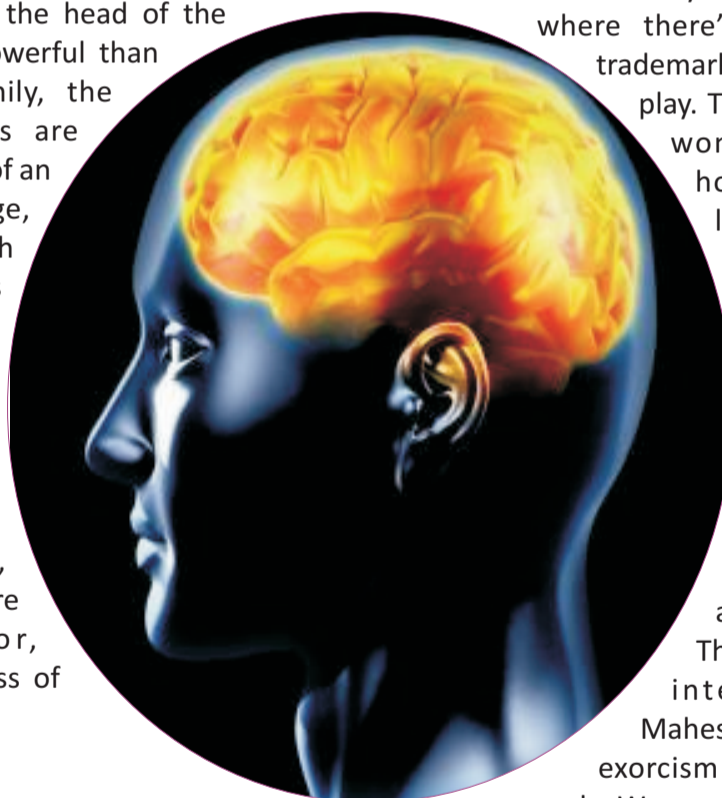
KEY WORDS: Patriarchal Psychology , Indian Social Structure , human behavior, functions and process of mind.

INTRODUCTION:

Of all the truly mysterious creation of nature human psychology is perhaps the most complex natural phenomena. Human psychology involves the scientific study of

human behavior, functions and process of mind and mentality. Human psychology encompasses various aspects of human nature such as personality emotions, relationship etc. Human psychology also deals with explaining consciousness and sub consciousness, self entities and individuals thought process. A research paper focuses on patriarchal psychology in Mahesh Dattani's where there's a will. Patriarchy means character tries to control or dominate the family members. The play where there's a will has many trademark qualities of Dattani's play. The play presents how women in their own homes are marginalized. Though the kitchen or home is described as the kingdom of women, they are no longer ruling over them. Instead, they are pushed on the margins of invisibility. It is attributed: Where There's a will has several interesting aspects. Mahesh described it as the exorcism of the patriarchal code. Women-be it daughter-in-law, wife or Mistress are dependent on men and this play shows what happen when they are.

Patriarchy is a social system in which



males hold primary power, predominant in rules of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property; in the domain of the Family, Fathers or Father-Figures hold authority over women and children. In another words we can define the patriarch "a form of social organization in which the male is the Family head and title is traced through the male line." In other words a Family where the Father is the authority Figure and every one gains his approval or follows his instructions. A matriarchal Family is the opposite where the mother rules the roost.

In where There's a will Dattani attempts the exorcism of the patriarchal code that subjugates women. Hasmukh establishes his patriarchy purely through his wealth sacrificing all familial relationship. His evil designs lead him to have ultimate destructive control over his Kith and Kin through Kiran, the executrix of his will after death. Hasmukh Metha is a self made industrialist who rules his household with an iron hand as an autocratic patriarch. He has final say in everything and has no regard for his wife Sonal, son Ajit or daughter-in-law Preeti. He has no conjugal relationship with Sonal his wife. Ajit is frustrated being ignored by his father. Ajit is considered a failure her wife by his father. Hasmukh treats his wife like a servant to keep his house in order. He is suspicious of daughter-in-law Preeti's intelligence. She is the only one who can match his lack of concern for any one. Hasmukh family and keeps everyone under his patriarchal control.

At the beginning of the play Ajit is talking to friend about his father who does not give five lakhs to modification of factory. As the telephonic conversation continues his father Hasmukh keeps commenting on Ajit's irresponsible and crack pot schemes. Dattani focuses also on the female characters who are busy preparing for dinner. The dinner table brings them all together and Hasmukh continues his tirade against Ajit and Utters, "You should get a son like yourself. He will finish you off much faster than you've finished me."

Patriarchal psychology we will find various ways in Where There's a will. Hasmukh says why does a man marry? so that he can have a woman to himself? No. There's more to it than that what may be he needs a faithful companion? No. If that was it, all men would keep dogs. No. No, I think the important reason anyone should marry at all is to get a son. Why is it so important to get a son? Because the son will carry on family name? Why did I marry? Yes to get a son. So that when I grow old, I can live life again through my son. Why did my father Marry? To get me. Why did I Marry? To get Ajit and I should be very happy man. This is the patriarchal psychology of Hasmukh.

Hasmukh's reaction is typical of establishing his patriarchal supremacy. He longs to have away over everything his grandchild to be born. Preeti can not bear any more the ordeal of being haunted by the will of Hasmukh being executed by his mistress. She longs to exorcise the ghost of Hasmukh, but utters her helplessness. "A picture of a perfect family. The widowed mother, the expectant mother. The son who has stepped into his late father's shoes without a peep, and of course the mistress of the house. The only one left to complete the picture in your father"

Hasmukh Metha is very autocratic father. He controls and checks the every movement of his son. He wants his son not as partner or owner of his property, but he wants his own son as a slave. Ajit Metha is quite meek and occupies little importance as both polities of patriarchy which doesn't only marginalize the women folk of the family but also other male members of the family. Hasmukh Metha has over powered identity of his son, Ajit by exercising absolute control over his home and business affairs. He has no power to use the property of his father in his own way. He is excluded from decision making process in business. His father is highly ego-centric and horribly self-opinioned man who doesn't allow Ajit to use his skill and talents for the business enhancement process. Strangely enough, Hasmukh Metha has made Ajit the managing director of his companies. However, he is not supposed to undertake any business errand and affairs at his own. He has to execute his fathers orders and

command keeping his own say aside.

Ajit : Don't I have any rights at all?

Hasmukh : You have the right to listen to my advice and obey my orders.

Mrs. Kiran Jhaveri comes to Has Mukh's house to stay with his family members. So, the family is surprised, rather shocked. They don't want to let her stay with them. However, they decide to keep her with them after knowing the instructions provided by Has mukh in his 'will'. Has mukh ruled his family when he was alive. After his death, he tried to control his family from his grave through his will. Kiran puts: "Has mukh was intoxicated with his power. He thought he was invincible. That he could rule from his grave by making this will". Actually, Has mukh didn't trust any of his family members. He reserves his doubts about their ways and intentions. He trusted completely in Kiran Jhaveri, who was working as an executive in his office and has won his confidence. Has mukh criticizes her wife by calling her dry and goal for nothing. He calls her mad. To Has mukh, Ajit is not competent enough to run his business.

CONCLUSION:-

To conclude the patriarchal psychology in where there's a will shows that there is no significant improvement in the plight of the women as though there is spread of education and progress of mankind in almost all the human sectors. It seems that male pride or ego is the root cause of the present plight of the women in our society. Sonal Metha has been victimized and exploited by the patriarchal social system. She is silent sufferer. Secondly, there are women who contend with Patriarchal unjust authority for their right and equities. Has mukh Metha wants unquestionable obedience and unchallengeable authority at home and at the office respectively. Therefore, he doesn't allow growing the 'self' of his son, Ajit who defies the autocratic father, but he fails to articulate his own son. The Has mukh exposes the illusion of perfect and complete control over the family for a longer period. Here the question arises in our mind why a man aspires too much for authority and power. Does it signify any value of life? Apparently-it doesn't attach any meaning to human existence. Man drives for the domination arises out of his own apprehension of insecurity. Out of his insecurity and states in family he tries to control whole family members in the family.

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