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Topic: Globalization, Identity and the Muslim Woman: Study of Select Writings of Tehmina Durrani, Leila Abouzeid and Mohja Kahf.

Key Words: Muslim woman, Stereotypes, Culture, Society, Social media, Globalization, Identity.

Findings

Literature is a reflection of the society and language is the tool to express how one perceives it. Women for the longest time have used the written form to register their voice. Muslim women are no different. Feminism is more than a movement, and as Miriam Cooke says it is an attitude. It is a standpoint, which is a conscious decision, one decides to take. There is more to feminism than the man woman debate. In the present times Muslim women embrace their feminist agendas, along with their faith.

The diversity of Muslim women is highlighted in an attempt to exemplify the fact that Muslim women is not a homogenous group. Issue of the hijab and modest fashion is introduced. Organizations working towards empowering women are discussed. The chapter ends with a discussion of Muslim women writing and presenting their own narrative, within an Islamic framework. The veil is discussed and through Khadras journey of understanding it better is portrayed. Real life experiences of the writer, as an immigrant find voice through the character of Khadra. The acceptance of 'Alternative' identities is a prominent concern.

Negotiating questions of identity and selfhood, this chapter looks closely at a

Muslim woman's expression of her own self, her community and those outside it.

This work alludes to strong Muslim women from history, to break the stereotypes

that are assumed about Muslim women. Agency or lack of it is a central concern in the entire thesis. Their narrative in their own words. All these writers are consciously or unconsciously working towards deconstructing pre-conceived notions about Muslim women, be it the lack of agency, freedom or rights. All this is done with giving up on their faith. The chapter goes on to talk about the role of globalization in the lives of Muslim women. It further goes on to discuss at length about role of social media and the internet in providing women with a platform to present their opinions and be heard.

To sum up, the thesis posits that Muslim women are not inherently oppressed and lack agency. There is vast diversity in the group which cannot be compartmentalized. Their varied experiences make up their individual identities, compared to their collective religious identities. The constant tension between who they are and how they are perceived arises from multiple reasons, be it pre-conceived notions, Islamophobia or the absence of women's voice from debates about them. The issues they deal with are much more intense than dress and the highly debated veil. Their identity cannot be one size fits all, their individuality also needs to be acknowledged.

Stereotyping Muslim women as all clad in a burqa is highly problematic. Their attempt to remove this misconception and speaking up is in itself an act, that shows agency..