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Ms. Renukadevi B Baad

Research Scholar, Dept Of English

Akkamahadevi Women's University - Vijaypur

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**IMPACT OF FORCED MARRIAGE IN THE LIFE OF JASVINDER SANGHERA
IN THE NOVEL SHAME BY JASVINDER SANGHERA**

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Shame is an autobiographical novel written by Jasvinder Sanghera and the novel was published in the year 2007. This novel explores the life of the writer itself, who faces her mother's wrath due to not accepting her mother's choice of marriage. When Jasvinder was only 15 years old she was shown a photograph of a man by her mother, to whom she has to marry, whom she never saw and met. This was a great blow and shock to her, the man whom she never saw, never met and suddenly she has to marry that man and more than that she was still so young. She didn't want to marry that man for whom her mother goes on insisting to marry as her all sisters got married at the same age and she was not something special to reject the proposal. Even her sisters insist her to marry the man whom her mother showed, nobody tried to understand her feelings.

Jasvinder was a free minded girl as she has grown up to believe in liberality, equality and fraternity of England in London and thought to have her own way of life of her own choice. So to escape from forced marriage she elopes with her boy friend Jassey, a chammar, an outcaste. This was not tolerated by her parents and they tried to search her which has become vain. When she ran away with a chammar they thought she brought shame to their family which usually happens when a girl runs away from the house as they think she is the honour of the family especially in Asian families when a girl runs away from the house it will become an up roaring matter and they were not going to give her any respect and place in the family. Her mother thought she was dead to them as she shamed them by running away from the house.

Though Jasvinder becomes successful in running away from her house, she faces so many problems in her life. Her parents disowned her and they thought she was a great shame to them. The detachment from her family made her to suffer from mental and physical traumas. She was unable to control the wrath of her parents and her sisters towards her. Her mother said to her 'In our eyes you're dead'(80). The words were so harsh that she got hurt by her mother's words then also she always wanted to have contact with her mother and other family members, though they were hateful towards her. After leaving her own home to escape forced marriage, she came with Jassey she faces the problem of staying, where they could stay. At last when they came across a small dingy room which makes Jasvinder remember and miss the comforts she had in the secure home of hers. In Jasvinder's own words: It was very dingy:one room three floors above his shop, with a shared kitchen and bathroom one flight down. (74)

There were cigarette burns in the carpet and the only furniture apart from the bed was a chest of drawers and two hard chairs. The bed looked quite clean but the mattress was really thin. The kitchen stank of old grease, only one ring worked on the cooker and there was a plane



missing in the bathroom window so it was permanently freezing. I felt my stomach lurch as Jassey said we'd take it. Home, in comparisons, was a five-star hotel.

Her beginning of a new life has also become a threat to her. She missed her family so much, she felt alienated in her life without her family's love and affection. She always wished to reconcile with her family and always she used to get hurt by her mother's harsh words. Life seems to be a hell without her family members who think she is nothing, a waste and a shame to their family. So Jasvinder thought to prove herself that she is not a waste and she wanted to show to her family, how wrong they were in believing in the old tradition. Jasvinder lead a good life with Jassey and even continued her studies in her life. When she gave birth to her first child also her mother proved her to be a brutal woman who thought her own daughter and granddaughter as an outcaste again she was insulted by her mother for running with a chammar. Though also Jasvinder never lost hopes in her life and started proving herself that her mother was wrong in her thinking that she was a shame to the family. When she starts to going to the university she was attracted by Rajvinder. She thought her marriage with Jassey was not because of love and affection but out of security for which she has run away with him and she also thought her marriage life with Jassey was fading away so she it would be better to stop the relationship. So she breaks up the relation and got married to Rajvinder. Unfortunately this marriage also proved to be nothing to her as her second husband started treating Jasvinder brutally.

Jasvinder enrolls herself as a volunteer at the Rape Crisis Centre to make her contribution to the society and helps other women like her, who were the victims of honour based violence and crimes. At Rape Crisis Centre, Jasvinder undergoes to be a good listener, which needed her to attend two sessions of discourse which she had no idea of what it was. Jasvinder started helping to those women who were the victims of forced marriage like her and thought to tell her own story to them that what she suffered in her life because of the forced marriage. Jasvinder, with support of Iold and many other women's organization begins Karma Nirvana. The centre for supporting and providing help (both physical and emotional) to the victims of forced marriage and honour based crimes. The centre's first base office is handed to Jasvinder by the rape crisis centre, after her long speech to its authorities, thus she sown a seed towards providing justice to the troubled individuals of cultural conflicts resulting into honour based crimes.

Though she herself the victim of a forced marriage she never lost hopes in her life. To escape from such a brutal act of her parents she ran away from the house that is also with a chammar, who was an outcaste for whom her parents were never going to accept. When she got married to Jassey she struggled hard to lead her life with him. though he showered on her the love and affection towards her she always felt that she didn'd really love him and she developed relationship another man. After this she started feeling guilty about herself that, the man who showed her lot of love and affection when her whole was against her that she was cheating him so she told the truth to him but he forgives her. though also having feeling guilty about herself she left her first husband and got married to Rajvinder who in the beginning showed much love and affection but later he too turned against her. so she left him too and started Karma Nirvana and starts helping those women who were the victims of forced marriage. Because of which she has become so famous that the whole world remembers her.

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