

Rediscovering the Essence of Motherhood: An Emotion Signifying Identity and Individuality of Womanhood

Nandana Sreekumar

Graduate in English language and literature

Abstract

This paper aims to bring out a new outlook on the meaning and feeling of motherhood by signifying and celebrating the strength and liberty of womanhood. This subject is brought into the paper by focusing on and emphasizing the identity and individuality of a woman over the identity of a mother. A woman once she becomes a mother is still expected to prioritize her child and family over her personal necessities, career, and self-care by least bothering about her life before. But it is being proved in real and reel that a woman can achieve the pride of being a wonderful mother by catering to her personal needs or by prioritizing herself fundamentally too no matter if she is a biological or non-biological mother to a child. She can exist as a successful mother by predominantly being a successful individual.

Keywords: Woman, motherhood, identity, individuality, society, gender roles, norms, Stereotype, success, independent.

Even though the current society is enlightened and empowered, it still possesses a tendency to glorify and romanticize the sacrifices and selflessness a woman as a mother exercises during her phase of motherhood over the efficiency and success she achieves by complimenting her role of being a successful woman in terms of career, productivity, and excellence along with being a wonderful mother. Motherhood is frequently observed to be the pinnacle of selflessness because of the significant sacrifices and unconditional love that accompany the role. Right from the emotional investment, beginning with pregnancy, a mother makes significant investments in her child's well-being and growth, frequently putting the child's needs ahead of her own. This includes supporting the child's emotional, physical, and psychological well-being. Mothers devote a significant amount of time and energy to caring for their children which involves sleepless nights, constant caregiving, and juggling multiple tasks, frequently at the sacrifice of personal leisure and rest. Sacrificing their personal goals, many moms put their personal aspirations, jobs, and hobbies on wait or adapt them to favour their children's needs and aspirations. This long-term commitment showcases the profound level of selflessness each mother possesses.

Every mother provides unconditional love and support, to their children as they progress through life's phases, regardless of any problems or difficulties that may arise. Mothers act as role models for their children by demonstrating selflessness and instilling qualities such as empathy, compassion, and sacrifice. Motherhood thus involves a diverse manifestation of selflessness, with enormous consequences for both the mother and the child's lives. The assertion that a woman is a woman first and then a mother emphasises the primary importance of recognising a woman's identity before her role as a mother. This perspective highlights several important considerations including intrinsic identity, autonomy, personal growth, equality, respect, balance and well-being, empowerment, choice, social and cultural impact. This underscores the importance of recognising and respecting a woman's identity. It advocates for the acknowledgment of women's personal and professional contributions beyond their roles as mothers fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. The significance of women's identity beyond their identity as mothers is a multifaceted issue that encompasses personal, social, and cultural dimensions. While motherhood is an important aspect of many women's lives, focusing exclusively on this role can overshadow their individuality and contributions in other areas. Several key points highlight the importance of recognizing and valuing women's identities beyond motherhood.

Personal satisfaction and autonomy are significant since women have distinct abilities, goals, and interests outside of being moms, just like any other human. Promoting women's pursuit of their interests and goals helps them feel fulfilled and autonomous, both of which are essential for general happiness and well-being. Professional and financial contributions including innovation and economic progress depend on women's involvement in the workforce and other professional fields. Acknowledging their professional identities honours women's contributions to a variety of disciplines and fights misconceptions that restrict women's employment chances.

Social and cultural impact:

Women have a big say in how politics, culture, and society are shaped. Women contribute to the diversity of thought and advancement in various fields in a variety of ways, from scientists and artists to activists and leaders emphasizing their accomplishments outside of parenthood. Gender equality is essential and to advance gender equality, it is critical to highlight women's identities outside of motherhood. It disproves conventional gender norms that frequently restrict women to home tasks and advances the notion that they can succeed in several positions at once.

Mental and emotional well-being:

Women's mental and emotional well-being is supported when they are allowed to define their identities apart from parenthood. It reduces the stress and shame that come with juggling parenthood with other responsibilities in life and recognizes the complexity of their experiences.

Role models and representation:

Younger generations are given role models by the diverse representation of women in literature, the media, and leadership roles. It encourages girls and young women to picture themselves in a world where social norms won't limit them from pursuing a variety of goals. And thus, valuing women's identities beyond motherhood is crucial for promoting individual fulfilment, economic and social progress, gender equality, and mental health. It recognizes the full spectrum of women's contributions and potential, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Analysing Arundhati Subramaniam's "When Landscape Becomes a Woman" sets the frame of how a mother exists equally for herself and her child.

The poet personifies the landscape as a woman using an ancient metaphor in which nature is portrayed as feminine, possessive, and subject to control, akin to how women have been treated historically and culturally. The landscape as a woman might represent a woman's body, soul, and independence. It explores how women negotiate their identities in a society that frequently aims to define them externally and presents a picture of strength, resiliency, and independence by examining the inner realities of being a woman. The poem makes a strong feminist statement about recovering autonomy and rejecting objectification by showing a metamorphosis in which the lady or the landscape regains her agency and strength. The poem might be interpreted as a critique of patriarchal cultures that want to subjugate and control women in the same way.

The poem can also be read as a critique of patriarchal societies that aim to control and dominate women in the same way that they dominate and control nature. It also serves as a call for women's empowerment and a rejection of the forces that seek to diminish their worth. There are various ways to read Arundhati Subramaniam's poem "When Landscape Becomes a Woman" from a feminist perspective. Themes pertaining to the female experience, the body,

identity, and the relationship between women and the environment are frequently explored in feminist poetry. Several features of Subramaniam's poetry could be deemed feminist.

Personification and Self-Identification:

The poem blurs the boundaries between nature and femininity by personifying the environment as a woman. It is possible to interpret this personification as a celebration of the feminine body, honouring its tenacity, beauty, and strength. She highlights the idea that women are important to the natural environment by changing the landscape into a woman, symbolising their vital role and close relationship to the soil.

Relationship with the Natural World:

The poem draws attention to the profound, relationship with nature. The poem emphasises women's close, frequent spiritual ties to the natural world. Feminist literature frequently explores this issue, viewing nature as a nurturing force that parallels the place of women in society. The inherent balance and harmony that women contribute to the world might be symbolised by the blending of the landscape and the woman, subverting the patriarchal idea that males should rule over both women and the natural world.

Empowerment and reclaiming:

The poem can be interpreted as a reclaiming act in which the feminine is viewed as an active, powerful presence rather than merely a passive object. The landscape is a dynamic force, not just a pretty picture. That is the lady. This reclaiming is empowering because it implies that women are as diverse, expansive, and competent as landscapes.

The poem emphasizes the close, frequent spiritual bond that exists between women and the natural world. This is a common theme in feminist writing, where the nurturing aspect of the natural world is compared to the role of women in society. The combination of a woman and a landscape can represent the inherent balance and harmony that women bring to the world, subverting the patriarchal idea that males are superior to both women and the natural environment. It is possible to interpret the poem as an act of reclamation in which the feminine is viewed as an active, powerful presence rather than merely a passive object. The environment of a woman is a moving force rather than merely scenery. This inspiring reclamation suggests that women are diverse, large, and competent, much like landscapes.

The courage and perseverance Dr. Rohini Pranab, a mother by heart exhibits

to save her children from the evil in Vineeth Srinivasan's directorial "Thira"

The film was inspired by the book "The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine" by Somaly Mam depicts the atrocities faced by Dr. Rohini Pranab, a busy cardiac surgeon, who rescues and shelters destitute and trafficked girls in a home she runs goes through to save her kidnapped children from a human trafficking team. The movie directed by Vineeth Sreenivasan, presents a nuanced and powerful depiction of motherhood through the character of Dr. Rohini Pranab, played by Shobana. The film revolves around her relentless quest to rescue girls who have been trafficked, including a girl who is like a daughter to her. This portrayal of motherhood transcends biological connections, emphasizing nurturing, protection, and unconditional love. Being a resilient protector Dr. Rohini embodies the resilience and strength often associated with motherhood. Her determination to save the trafficked girls demonstrates a fierce protective instinct, highlighting a mother's role as a guardian willing to face any danger to safeguard her children. The character's actions are driven by a profound sense of unconditional love. Despite not being a biological mother to the girls, she treats them with the same compassion and care, showcasing that motherhood can be defined by emotional bonds rather than just biological ones.

Sacrifice and dedication the protagonist exhibits throughout the movie, Dr. Rohini's sacrifices underline a key aspect of motherhood – selflessness. She endures numerous hardships and risks in her life, illustrating the extent to which a mother would go to ensure the safety and well-being of her children. Thus, she is being portrayed as a strong and empowered woman This aspect of her character challenges traditional gender roles and stereotypes, presenting a modern view of motherhood where a mother is not just nurturing but also a powerful and an authoritative figure.

Altogether, "Thira" portrays motherhood as a powerful, resilient force characterized by unconditional love, protection, and sacrifice. Dr. Rohini's character challenges traditional notions, emphasizing that motherhood is as much about emotional commitment and strength as it is about biological ties. The movie presents a nuanced and powerful depiction of motherhood through the character of Dr. Rohini Pranab, played by Shobana. The film revolves around her relentless quest to rescue girls who have been trafficked, including a girl who is like a daughter to her. This portrayal of motherhood transcends biological connections, emphasizing nurturing, protection, and unconditional love.

In “Thira,” the protagonist Dr. Rohini is depicted as a leader, which defies the traditional stereotype of mothers being confined to domestic roles. She is at the forefront of a mission to combat human trafficking, demonstrating authority, intelligence, and strategic thinking. This portrayal shifts the perception of mothers from passive caregivers to active leaders in society. The film redefines motherhood by focusing on emotional bonds rather than biological connections. Dr. Rohini’s maternal instincts and dedication to the trafficked girls, whom she sees as her own, challenge the notion that motherhood is solely tied to giving birth. This emphasizes that nurturing and protective roles can extend beyond traditional family structures. Unlike stereotypical portrayals that often depict mothers as vulnerable or dependent, Dr. Rohini is shown as resilient and strong. Her character faces immense danger and personal loss but continues to fight for justice and protection of the girls. This strength showcases a mother figure who is not just emotionally supportive but also physically and mentally formidable.

Dr. Rohini’s character balances her professional responsibilities with her maternal role, breaking the stereotype that women must choose between a career and motherhood. Her success as a doctor and an activist illustrates that women can excel in both spheres, challenging the conventional view of a mother’s place being solely in the home. The film depicts Dr. Rohini as a crusader for justice, a role typically not associated with traditional maternal figures. Her involvement in the fight against human trafficking positions her as a social warrior, emphasizing that mothers can also be champions of broader societal causes.

By portraying Dr. Rohini as a multifaceted and dynamic character, “Thira” breaks away from conventional stereotypes of motherhood. It highlights that mothers can be strong, independent, and influential figures who play vital roles both within and outside the family. This reimagining of motherhood presents a more inclusive and empowering narrative that aligns with contemporary views on gender roles and family dynamics. The depiction of strength and individuality is primarily embodied in the character of Dr. Rohini Pranab, played by Shobana. Her portrayal breaks away from conventional female roles and her resilience are evident throughout the film. Despite facing immense personal loss and the harrowing challenges of combating human trafficking, she remains steadfast in her mission. Her ability to persevere in the face of adversity showcases an inner strength that is both inspiring and formidable and is portrayed as a leader and an authoritative figure. She heads the fight against human trafficking with confidence and decisiveness. This portrayal challenges traditional gender roles by placing a woman at the helm of a high-stakes, action-oriented narrative. Her leadership is marked by strategic thinking, empathy, and unwavering determination.

As a renowned cardiac surgeon, Dr. Rohini's professional identity is a key aspect of her individuality. Her success in a demanding and male-dominated field underscores her competence and dedication. This professional portrayal highlights that her identity extends beyond her maternal role, illustrating that women can excel in their careers while still being compassionate and nurturing. Dr. Rohini's character exudes independence. She operates autonomously, driven by her moral compass and a deep sense of justice. Her independence is also reflected in how she handles challenges without relying on others, showing that she is self-sufficient and capable of making significant decisions on her own.

Dr. Rohini is a complex character with a rich backstory that informs her actions and motivations. This depth adds to her individuality, making her more than just a one-dimensional figure. Her personal experiences, including the trauma of losing her loved ones, shape her into a resilient and compassionate person who fights tirelessly for others. The film portrays Dr. Rohini engaging in physical confrontations and high-stress situations typically reserved for male characters in action genres. Her active participation in these scenarios breaks gender norms and showcases that women can embody both strength and vulnerability without compromising their femininity.

Despite her toughness, Dr. Rohini's empathy and compassion for the trafficked girls are central to her character. This balance of strength and sensitivity presents a nuanced depiction of individuality where emotional intelligence is as valued as physical and moral fortitude. Through Dr. Rohini Pranab, "Thira" offers a compelling portrayal of a strong, independent woman whose individuality is defined by her multifaceted personality, professional achievements, and unwavering commitment to justice and compassion. This depiction challenges traditional stereotypes and presents a modern, empowering vision of female strength and individuality.

In both these pieces of works contrasting in their forms, there resides a strong spirit of femininity carrying motherhood and strength that goes beyond any societal stereotypes and norms not only by letting their biological and non-biological children free from those pointless allegations shadowing gender roles carried on by society for ages, but also as mothers over anything who set themselves to be classic examples of how strong, contained, and unshaken a woman can be.

They reside to be a perfect mould of the theme or idea that a woman is primarily and fundamentally a woman or a warrior who doesn't live in the shadow of the norms set up by

someone who owes to patriarchy but a good human being who can balance, complement, and carry out her personality and her identity as a mother excellently in a way that the idea or the essence of motherhood takes its form or rediscovers its meaning of not being selflessly available to her family or children but residing as a strong independent self who effortlessly leads her life as a successful individual and a very successful mother.

Conclusion

The significance of women's identity beyond their identity as mothers is a multifaceted issue that encompasses personal, social, and cultural dimensions. While motherhood is an important aspect of many women's lives, focusing exclusively on this role can overshadow their individuality and contributions in other areas including personal fulfilment and autonomy, professional and economic contributions, social and cultural impact, gender equality, and mental and emotional health. Both these pieces of works contrast in their forms, there resides a strong spirit of femininity carrying motherhood and strength that goes beyond any societal stereotypes and norms not only by letting their children free from those pointless allegations shadowing gender roles carried on by society for ages but also as mothers over anything set themselves to be perfect examples of how strong, contained and unshaken a woman can be. The essence of motherhood takes its form or rediscovering its meaning of not being selflessly available to her family or children but to be residing as a strong independent self who effortlessly leads her life as a successful individual and a very successful mother.

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