

# Liberation of Women in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and Half of a Yellow Sun

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## ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the liberation of Afro-American women through women empowerment. It examines the basic rights of women, gender issues and domestic violence. It also examines the oppression towards women. Narrative technique is used to describe the status of women in a patriarchal society. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel "Purple Hibiscus" describes the struggle for liberation from oppression. The title of the novel "Purple Hibiscus" may refer to a particular type of flower but it develops the hope for liberation in the major character Kambili. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel "Half Of a Yellow Sun" describes the struggle for liberation from sexuality and to liberate Biafran from the Nigerian soldiers.

**KEYWORDS:** Struggle, liberation, oppression, domestic violence, revolt

## INTRODUCTION

Freedom is the right of every human being, and if it is not given equally to the female, they go for revolt. Basically, the term, 'Feminism' is also generated from this kind of revolt. The aim of Feminism is to get the social, economic, and political equality for women. In 'Purple Hibiscus' and 'Half of a yellow sun' female characters struggle to get the liberation from male oppression, clutches of tradition and socio-political and economic dis-empowerment. Women's struggles to free themselves from the clutches of male oppression and dominance are what hold us spellbound to Adichie's most alluring and extremely powerful novels. Adichie remarkably dramatizes in her works, women's determination to survive in the face of violence, sexual assault, extreme starvation, senseless brutality and ceaseless threats to their lives and property. Through her main characters, Adichie reveals how the physical, psychological and mental abuse of women can have negative effects on their well-being. The liberation of women from all structures against their peaceful co-existence alongside men deserves the support of all humanity. This study concludes, therefore, that every African woman must face up to the realities of her sexist culture and assert her rights. This is undoubtedly a demanding choice fraught with its own dangers but a woman needs to burst the system and set up her own parameters within the society or risk being treated as a doormat for life.

### **Women's Struggle and liberation in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "Purple Hibiscus"**

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "purple Hibiscus" is a story told by 15 year old girl named Kambili Achike who is a victim of male dominated society. She, her mother Beatrice and her brother, Jaja ,they all are victim of domestic violence done by her father Eugene who wants to control each and every movement of their life. They cannot think themselves. They have to follow the commands of their father otherwise they have to be ready for the strict punishment by father. In her novel *Purple Hibiscus*, Adichie presents the tyrannical, wicked, and hypocritical Eugene Achike and how he rules his is a typical example of patriarchal way of life found in some families in Africa. Adichie's character of Beatrice, describes how wives are oppresses by their husband. Beatrice is the good wife who obeys her husband all the time. Her life is controlled by her husband and she does not have any choice or feeling of her own. Here is a description of one incident of domestic violence and male oppression. After Sunday mass Achike family goes to visit father Benedict. Beatrice does not feel well so she tells her husband that she will stay in the car instead of visit father Benedict. After listening this his husband gets angry. His face expression shows his anger clearly. Beatrice is scared to see his expression and gets ready to come with him though she is having pain. After returning home though she followed her husband's order , she is beaten very badly by her husband because of her earlier refusal for coming. Beating badly causes her miscarriage.

Beatrice is not only victim of this kind of domestic violence but her children Kambili and Jaja equally suffers from this kind of domestic violence very often. They always remain in fear that their father will beat them. They cannot enjoy their life and cannot live happily due to this kind of fear. One day Jaja did not participate in Sunday mass so he becomes the victim of his father's inhuman act. Eugene throws a missal at Jaja. One more incident of his inhuman act is described here. One time kambili brings the picture of papa Nnukwu at their house, when her father knows that, he becomes angry and badly kicks her. He kicks her so badly that she was hospitalized for several days and became unconscious.

Ifeoma is the sister of Eugene Achike. Ifeoma is the single character in the novel "Purple Hibiscus" who is not afraid of anyone. She is bold, strong, hardworking, outspoken and has her own opinion and views in life. She develops friendship with Beatrice and try to bring her out of oppression and domestic violence. She wants to make her think independently and want to make her strong enough to revolt against violence. Beatrice is close to Sisi, her maid servant and whom she gets the poison that kills Eugene. This is a case of women helping other women to end oppression. This way at last Beatrice kills her husband to get liberation from all kind of domestic violence and oppression.

### **Women's Struggle and liberation in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "Half of a yellow sun"**

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "Half of a yellow sun" is a novel attempts to reclaim sex, sexuality, and sensuality for her female characters. Adichie depicts in her novel sex, power, and privilege with her twin characters, Olanna and Kainene. she also describes the disempowerment and sexual violence that women of limited power, privilege, and social status often face by way of Eberechi and the unnamed bargirl. Olanna and Kainenen demonstrate Adichie's attempts to reclaim sex and sexuality. Both women are sexually liberated and claim all aspects of their sexuality. As Adichie is trying to establish through her reclaiming, sexuality is something that they alone control and have ownership over. However, while the twins may be a prime example of Adichie's attempts to reclaim sex and sexuality for women, as an

author she would be remiss to end there. As such, Adichie is sure to also shine a light on the ways that sex can be weaponized against women, which is exactly what her reclaiming is meant to challenge.

“Half of a yellow sun” depicts sexual suffering of women. Especially poor and working class women despite their refusal, they have to be victim of unwanted sexual exploitation. Adichie’s minor female characters reveals sexual agency, there are moments when such freedom seems to be threatened by hyperaggressive male sexuality, which solely aims at establishing male sexual dominance through the forceful removal of female sexual autonomy. evident incident of sexual violence is presented through the character of Ugwu, newly enlisted into the Biafran Army. Ugwu together with other soldiers participates in a gang rape:

The bar girl was lying on her back on the floor, her wrapper bunched up at her waist, her shoulder held down by a soldier, her legs wide, wide ajar [...]. Ugwu pulled his trousers down, surprised at the swiftness of his erection. She was dry and tense when he entered her. (365)

Zoe Norridge, whose reading of *Half of a Yellow Sun* concentrates mainly on sex as a language of violence, describes Ugwu’s gang rape as both an “extension of the sexuality of young boys [that elect] to have sex with a young girl [...] and as a bonding male exercise in the practice of war” (2012: 26).

## CONCLUSION

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie;s “purple Hibiscus” and “Half of a yellow sun” both novels describe the lives of women in African traditional society. They also describe the the struggle of the women for liberation from all kids of domestic violence, oppression and gender inequality. Adichie concludes that empowerment and education of the women are tools for the liberation of women from all kinds of oppression and domestic violence.knowledge is not only power but an instrument of change. They use their education to show that when females empower themselves they will easily have access to new and better jobs, leading to economic independence.Therefore, women empowerment and raised consciousness is an indispensable tool for change in the society as they ensure that both male and female members of the society enjoy equal rights and privileges.

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