



Education Imparted by Heart Brings Evolution

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ABSTRACT:

Tsitsi Dangarembga's novel *Nervous Condition* portrays the culture and practice of African people. The women in the family are just maintained by their men. It shows gender roles of typical Rhodesian people treat each gender. This novel *Nervous Condition* shows the role of women is to look after their family, do household work and to be a good daughter, wife and mother. This novel examines various mind set of Rhodesian people where they feel educating a man would bring profit to the family. They believe that educating a girl is waste of time and money because someday she would be married and move to her husband's house and the family gets no profit out of it. This was the exact condition of the protagonist of *Nervous Condition* as her brother was given his right to get education where else Tambu was asked to stop her schooling. 'Self help is the best help' as the quote says no one could help a person better than one could help themselves. Tambu herself found the way to get her education initially by selling vegetables and later by winning scholarship.

Keywords: Education, profit, self help, gender roles.

"I was not sorry for my brothers death nor am I apologizing for my callousness as you may define it, my lack of feeling."

To celebrate her brothers death initially seems to be appall when the protagonist of the novel says she was unmoved by her brothers death. In this novel *Nervous Condition* a fourteen year young girl Tambudzai who lost her feeling towards her brother's death might be noticed but, a highly noticed fact is that she was happy when her uncle Babamukuru with who's help her brother attended his school in London promised that he would educate Tambu as her brother Nhamo was dead. This incident shows three varied issues, an unmoved girl who was reaction less towards her brother's death, next is a boy in the family to be educated and the final it is to be noticed that Tambu the protagonist gets her right for education after her brother's absence. As the setting of the novel is located in African country, later addressed as Rhodesia culture and how the Shona people treat women.

Progress of a family or an individual could be in any forms such as luck, hard work and education. The Rhodesian girl Tambu choice was the last two. She worked hard in the field of education in order to remove poverty from her family. Tambu was a school drop out. She lived in a poor family, her father Jeremiah and her mother Ma'Shingayi decided to stop her education in order to provide her brother Nhamo's school fund, they also thought educating a girl is waste of time and money. The Rhodesian people think there is no use of educating a girl, as she is to get married and move to her husband's house this brings no profit out of it.

When Tambu gets to know that money was her first barrier for education, Tambudzai decided to grow maze and sold them in order to pursue her education. She grew vegetables in her garden and sold them in market. Tambu spent that money for a private tuition in order to get educated, this shows Tambu's thirst for education. This entire scenario changes when her father Jeremiah gets to know about her private education, he demands her money with which she decided to pay her fees. Tambu's brother Nhamo stole her money. After Nhamo's death Tambu was given a chance to attend school which her brother Nhamo enjoyed as he was a boy. When Tambu's mother Ma'Shingayi stopped her to move for her higher education she was much excited to get her education. Tambudzai at the same time did not give away her culture like Nhamo and Nyasha who lost there ability to speak Shona language and forgot their culture. Tambu excelled in education when she visited England. She was close with Nyasha but initially Tambu did not like her attitude towards elders as she sees Nyasha's daily routine was to fight with her father. Nyasha and Tambu spoke vast knowledge.

'And these days it is worse, with the poverty of blackness on one side and the weight of womanhood on the other. Aiwa! What will help you, my child, is to learn to carry your burdens with strength.'

Usually father's are the role model to their son similarly mothers are daughter's first role model. In this novel *Nervous Condition* it is vice versa. Tambu's first wish was not to be like her mother. Women in this novel *Nervous Condition* were maintained by men of their family this is how Ma'shingayi was also maintained by her drunken husband, her father was an alcoholic person who cares less for their family and relies on his wife earnings. Ma'shingayi was physically abused by her drunken husband. Tambudzai mother's regular duty was to look at their household work, looking after their children and earn money when her husband demands for money she hand over to him. Jeremiah hits her hard when Ma'Shingayi was carrying a child in her womb and push her to the state of abortion this was their regular practice, she never attempted to question her husband. Tambudzai taught by her mother how to do family domestic work, how to be a good daughter, wife as well as mother. The protagonist saw her mothers suffering and their families situation right from her childhood. She wished to be educated.

Initially Tambu admires her uncle Babamukuru who used education as a tool in order to come out of poverty. Tambu also used education to lift her family from poverty. Tambu respected Babamukuru her uncle who helped her to get her education. But, she voiced against him and his decision when

Babamukuru arranged for a church wedding for her parents this brings the difference between uneducated girl and an educated girl. Tambudzai voiced her opinion towards her uncle, stop her parents wedding. Tambu was worried that her parents would be a laughing stock in front of the villagers. Babamukuru was the decision maker of the family who wanted people of his family to follow his order when Tambu disobeyed his order and failed to visit church Babamukuru hit her hard and yelled at her, he also states that he would stop her education. As 'opportunity knocks the door once' Tambu wrote a scholarship exam which helped her to lay her own way to reach her destiny. Thambu wins the scholarship exam and moved to convent school. Later she attended her schooling with scholarship and did not depend on anyone's help.

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