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Manjula Padmanabhan's Play *Lights Out*: The Manifestation of Female Consciousness and Male Chauvinism

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Abstract

Literature is an important medium for representation of the social aesthetics. It represents the contemporary society, their identity, culture, and history with all its colour. Literature has the capacity to transmit everyday life experiences and has the potential to represent the inner reality of human world. Simultaneously, it raises voice against injustice and sensitizes people about the rampant social evils. Hence, literature is an effective tool for knowing the hues and colours of the human society. Indian drama in English has closely represented human condition and has brought stage close to life. Plays do not merely describe human experiences but bring forth the inner and the outer reality of human consciousness. The individual's struggle for survival against various forces is one of the important themes of drama and often found in the intense dramatic situations. The psycho-philosophical realism and the social realism emphasize on the real dramatic situation.

The present paper studies Manjula Padmanabhan's play *Lights Out*, appeared on stage in 1986. It is based on a real incident of gang rape happened in the urban locality of Mumbai. It extends a grim reality of the modern urban society and focuses on the psyche of the middle-class people. More significantly, it is set in an urban socio-cultural patriarchal society where women are always victimized. More disturbing is the reaction of men and their attitude of non-interference