

The Woman's Struggle for Independence in *A Doll's House*

by Henrik Ibsen

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Abstract

The famous play *A Doll's House* by Henrick Ibsen tackles issues of marriage, the roles of men and women, and society beliefs. It is considered a classic piece of literature. The chief character, Nora, is a female who battles to become an autonomous person by breaking out the social norms. The portrayal of its protagonist, Nora Helmer, in *A Doll's House*, for the purpose of studying her expectations as well as her character's traits in order to paint a picture of an independent and individual woman. Nora has personified the image of a female character who defies patriarchy and paves her own way, therefore, discarding all of the conventional gender roles. The present study will examine Nora's presentation in this play as an independent woman, where it focuses on the vital moments as well as Ibsen's use of the literary tropes for conveying this. The play's protagonist is a housewife who lives a seemingly perfect life with her husband and her kids, by proceeding further in the play, it is actually revealed that the main character, Nora, feels trapped in surroundings limiting her independent status and individuality, which set up the play's culmination, where she makes the decision of living alone after separating from her family. Despite that, the play features another female type, Nora, who is viewed as an individual defying the social conventions of the day and challenging traditional women's roles as mothers and wives for the purpose of attaining her independence.

Keywords: struggle, independence, patriarchal, conventions, challenge

صراع المرأة من أجل الاستقلال في بيت الدمية لهنريك إبسن

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المستخلص

المسرحية الشهيرة بيت الدمية لهنريك إبسن تتناول قضايا الزواج وادوار الرجال والنساء ومعتقدات المجتمع وتعتبر قطعة كلاسيكية من الادب. تكافح الشخصية الرئيسية نورا لتصبح شخصا مستقلا من خلال كسر الأعراف الاجتماعية. تم تصوير بطلنة الرواية نورا هيلمر في بيت الدمية لغرض دراسة توقعاتها وكذلك سمات شخصيتها من أجل رسم صورة لشخص مستقل. لقد جسدت نورا صورة الشخصية الانثوية التي تتحدى السلطة الأبوية (الذكورية) وبالتالي التخلص من جميع الأدوار الجندرية التقليدية. تتناول الدراسة الحالية عرض نورا في هذه المسرحية كمرأة مستقلة حيث تركز على اللحظات العصبية بالإضافة الى استخدام إبسن للأساليب الأدبية التي تنقل ذلك. وتناول البحث المعركة التي واجهت امرأة في النرويج في القرن التاسع عشر التي تسعى للتغلب على الاضطهاد الذي تواجهه من قبل المجتمع الذكوري. تعيش بطلنة المسرحية وهي ربة منزل حياة تبدو مثالية مع زوجها واطفالها من خلال المضي قدما في المسرحية. لقد تم الكشف على ان الشخصية الرئيسية نورا تشعر بانها في محيط يحد من استقلالها وخصوصيتها. الى ان تصل المسرحية ذروتها حيث تتخذ قرار العيش بمفردها بعد الانفصال عن اسرتها. وعلى الرغم من ذلك تتميز هذه المسرحية بنوع اخر من النساء والتي ينظر اليها على انها فرد يتحدى الأعراف الاجتماعية السائدة في ذلك الوقت وتتحدى الأدوار التقليدية للمرأة كأم وزوجة من أجل تحقيق استقلالها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: صراع، استقلال، ابوي، اعراف، تحدي

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Introduction

Henrik Ibsen is widely considered as one of 19th century's best playwrights. He was born in

Norway in 1828, he became famous as a realism master through producing works questioning the

social norms and encouraging in-depth human nature analysis. One of Ibsen's most popular plays is entitled as *A Doll's House* which has been considered as a groundbreaking piece that had led to the creation of a stir in 1879 when it debuted. The drama revolves around Nora, who appears as a content wife and mother who discovered that her existence is a lie. With the progress of the story, Nora understands that her life was completely controlled by society norms and the wishes of her husband. The drama explores the true uniqueness and independence meaning, besides conventional roles that are performed by the men and women in the society (Meisel, 1983, pp. 345-361).

Scholars as well as theatre aficionados performed extensive researches and analyses of *A Doll's House* play. Being acknowledged as a feminist masterpiece, it serves also a commentary on humanity's state as well as a critique of conventions in society. A movie, an opera and a ballet have been made based on this play, in addition to other formats. The way this play influences theater industry cannot be disputed, and it had an impact on numerous writers and artists for many years. Ibsen's play is a classic work that still impact audiences to this day. Its deals of individualism, independence, and freedom are just as relevant in the present day as they were over a 100 years ago (Showalter, 1990, p. 198).

Nora's character in *A Doll's House* has personified the idea of a new woman, who longs to express her yearning for self-determination and freedom through defying all limitations that she feels being imposed on her by her roles as a wife and a mother. Through examining conflicts between the society norms and personal preference, Ibsen had challenged the notion that the women must be always be defined by their

domestic responsibilities. Due to the fact that it questions prevailing gender roles and social behaviors in the period in which it was written. Nora has been portrayed as a symbol of a woman with a courage of defying patriarchal expectations in the society (Showalter, 1990, *ibid*).

The play delves into the feminist struggle in the 19th century for self-determination. This play is centered on Nora Helmer, a woman who is seeking freedom, independence and her own identity while being trapped stuck in a loveless marriage. Ibsen had explored power dynamics between the men and women, in addition to the cultural expectations that have been set for the women throughout the journey that Nora takes on. This play has received a great deal of appreciation due to its impact on feminist movement as well as innovative take on the subject of gender roles (Stanton, 1892, p.8).

Nora's character in this play has many facets and layers.. She is a woman battling to establish her independence and sense of self in a society that does not acknowledge her as a unique individual. Nora is a daughter, a wife, and a mother. She is viewed by many as character a symbol that represent the fight for women's rights and independence due to her compelling journey of self (Stanton, 1892, *ibid*).

Nora has been initially portrayed in the play as a mother and wife who is seemingly content, shares a cozy house with Torvald her husband. She has been depicted as a devout wife, concerned with taking care of her home and willingly obeying her husband's commands, however it gradually becomes clear that Nora's character is a much more nuanced than it is assumed initially. her sense of independence is quite strong and she desires to be her own person, a known to be a courage woman who has no fear of taking chances

and speaking up for her beliefs(Showalter,1990, p.198).

The aim of this study

This study is aimed to examine the restrictions placed on woman in *A Doll's House*. Nora Helmer, the protagonist, rebels against the patriarchal borders whilst pursuing her independence. The research concentrates on social norms, gender roles, and the elements helping her liberation, especially highlighting the concept of woman's liberation and the fights needed to attain progressing against unwanted social standards.

The New Woman

Ibsen portrayed Nora as a woman who does not mind breaking the expectations of the society. The initial step on the path that Nora had taken towards the independence is her realizing her place in the society. Additionally, Nora had demonstrated her independence by making the decision of borrowing money in order to save her husband's life without him knowing. Nora's independence in decision making had demonstrated that Nora is willing to act independent of her spouse instead of being reliant on him. Nora's search for independence grows more and more important, after discovering that her husband's love for her is conditional. Nora's first move towards the independence is taken through enhancing her self-awareness and separating it from her husband's perception of her. In addition, Nora decides to divorce her spouse and leaves her kids, which represents a reminder of how independent woman she is. She decides as well to give up her ideal existence while pursuing genuine self-actualization. Her ability of prioritizing her wishes over the conventional social norms has been

demonstrated by Nora's separation from her husband and children (Yakubowski,2013,pp.97-101).

At the end of the play, Nora's decision of leaving her family behind is revolutionary for its time. By making this choice, Nora is expressing not only her denial of patriarchal tyranny, but also her claim of personal autonomy and individuality. A striking example of the new woman ideal is the willingness to give up everything, including her marriage and her relations with her kids, in order to be independent. Nora wants to define herself and take control of her own life, no matter the cost, and she no longer wants to be a doll in her husband's house. Similar to this, the protagonist's fight for freedom and independence is a feminist struggle against gender norms. According to Miriam Webster, feminism is the belief in the social, political, and economic equality of men and women. Nora's feminist views are evident in her fight for equality. The play's protagonist serves as a model for contemporary feminists who want to achieve equal chances for themselves. According to the author, Nora was the first feminist heroine who served as a model for other feminist characters(Walters,2005, p.2).

The new woman ideal placed a high value on independence, education, and intellectual stimulation. Throughout the performance, Nora's enthusiasm for reading and her will to learn are clear to see. She enjoys reading spy novels and tries to learn more by having discussions with her acquaintance Mrs. Linde. Nora's ambitions of going beyond the gender norms and becoming a fully-fledged individual has been evident in the way she longs for the education and knowledge(Showalter,1990, p.198).

The fact that Nora's rejection childbearing as the only path to the feminine fulfillment represents

another example of how she defies the social expectations, she complains to Mrs. Linde about her unhappy life as merely a housewife and a mother, saying that she yearns for more. This can be considered as a potent declaration of the new woman ideal, which had seen motherhood as only an option amongst many other options for the women, that there is a rejection of this old notion that women's sole role is boring and nurturing children(Walters,2005, p.2).

Conversations that take place between Nora and Torvald , reveal her increasing awareness of her subjugation. Nora resents her husband because he treats her as a child. She longs for an equitable partnership, in which she can be herself, be self-reliant, and not feel scrutinized. Nora's servitude defiance plays a role of a metaphor for the greater fight for independence that had to be endured by women in that age. However, Nora is a sophisticated and multifaceted person who has fully unique wishes, motivations, and worries. This nuanced representation makes a strong point about women's capacity for emotional and intellectual intelligence as well as their ability to lead rich, complicated lives apart from romantic relationships. Furthermore, the changes in society that were occurring at the time are reflected in Nora's character. The way that people saw women and their places in society underwent a fundamental change in the ninetieth century (Waller,2017, pp.175-182).

The play's portrayal of Nora's dramatic metamorphosis serves as a metaphor for how women's roles are evolving in society. The way that Ibsen viewed that women need to accept their lot in life and avoid going above and beyond roles allocated to them is a direct challenge to the notion of the new woman and an illustration of the influence that the norms of society can have on the

actions of an individual(Yakubowski,2013, pp.97-101).

Education as a Barrier for women:

During the 19th century, education was basically a privilege that is exclusively available to a chosen group of people, who were at that time men. Women had much more restricted access to the knowledge in addition to fewer opportunities that are related to the education. Nora's lack of education and knowledge has been clearly depicted in this play, which has made it difficult for her to make wise decisions. For example, she borrowed money from Krogsted, without having any idea about consequences of such transaction from the legal point of view. The struggles that were faced by the women in this play to survive were a kind of metaphor for difficulties that have been experienced by the women in the 19th century. The social pressures, lack of educational opportunities and economic dependence have played a role of financial strains on women's pursuit of personal autonomy and equality. Hardships that have been faced by the women at that time have been reflected in Nora's story, emphasizes as well how important gender equality is (Waller,2017, pp.175-182).

Societal Expectation:

One of the play's main themes is the concept of society expectations. Throughout the narrative, Nora battles with all her power to meet expectations of everybody around, which included her husband, father, and society. Due to the fact that those demands are often unachievable and imaginary, Nora ends up feeling overburdened and helpless. Ibsen believed that those expectations lead to hindering women's uniqueness, creativity,

and advancement, which is detrimental to the society in general (Gossett, 2009, pp. 218-221).

Ibsen's play represents one of the most notable pieces of literature, emphasizing challenges that are faced by the women in the society that controlled by the men throughout their attempts towards surviving and being independent. This play has also examined the concept that the progress of the women towards freedom and independence is impeded by the social as well as patriarchal expectations. It is a depiction of the battle for self-realization, independence, and release from patriarchal norm constraints through Nora's figure, it also emphasizes roles expected of women by the society. Anything other than becoming a wife and mother was considered as inappropriate for women. Women were restricted to their social positions, as

demonstrated by Nora's attempt to strike a balance between her personal ambitions and society expectations (Gossett, 2009, *ibid*).

Torvald embodies the traditional patriarchal ideas that dominated 19th century society; he supports women's subordination as well as the inflexible gender roles that classified women as emotional and domestic. This is demonstrated by his response to Nora's disobedience, which left him feeling depressed and furious at her choice of leaving him (Felski, 1995, pp. 170-188).

Gender roles and the notion that women should only stay at home are other topics covered in the play. The duties of wives and mothers are expected of Nora, and she does not get the same opportunities as males for personal development, independence, and progress. Nora's comment, "I have been your doll-wife, just as at home I was papa's doll-child." Reflect this (Ibsen, 2008, p. 92.).

This emphasizes the social norm that demands women to be obedient and respectful of men. As a

result, Nora's option of leaving her husband and children at the end emphasizes her individuality. Her decision to give up her comfort and take a risk by going out into the unknown world of her own. The decision she made demonstrates Nora's willingness to take opportunities and make tough choice. Although her decision to abandon her children is disagreeable, it demonstrates her dedication to her personal freedom. She understands that if she continues in her current state, she will not be a decent wife or mother. This decision had confirmed that Nora is ready and willing to put her own needs first. There is a possibility for viewing Nora as a feminist icon and symbol of the shifting roles played by women in the society. Nora is a self-reliant woman who is willing to break the expectations and social mores. She plays the role of independence and self-sufficiency illustration that can be possessed by women. Nora's character reflects Ibsen's own views on the rights of the women. The dramatist has highlighted limitations that are set by society on the women by using Nora as crutch. He has argued that the women must have an opportunity of working toward being independent, because they are capable of doing that (Kaplan, 1982, pp. 47-60).

The Challenge of Financial Independence:

The female characters in the play must deal as well with financial reliance issue. As a result of having an unstable financial status, Nora depends on her husband financially and is not capable of making decisions or establishing independence, she has no money for sustaining herself nor her kids without him, which is why, she does not have the ability to leave him. Therefore, the way she financially relies on her husband reflects difficulties faced by the women in getting financial

independence. Women's options of employment have been limited, and they were dependent on their husbands in order to be financially supported. The play representation of this dependence had led to leaving women being vulnerable to the financial dominance of their husbands. Ibsen had questioned the gender norms and expectations of the society of women throughout this play. Ibsen has emphasized the disparity of power that existed in the society in the 19th century between men and women, with the women having limited rights and little influence on the majority of daily life facets. Nora's fight to gain independence and equality is a symbol of dilemma of numerous women subjected to the society's patriarchal norms and oppression(Kaplan,1982,ibid).

Nora has a desire to be financially independent, therefore she rebelled against norms that say women should be financially dependent on their husbands by secretly borrowing money from Krogstad. Similarly, it is evident from her decision to leave Torvald leave him alone at the end of the play that she wants financial independence and self-sufficiency. Moreover, *A Doll's House* is a play that addresses issues of social class and economic standing in addition to gender. The struggle of lower-class women to become financially independent and frequently rely on men for help is reflected in Nora's financial circumstances (Dalrymple,2016, pp.10-17).

The Necessity for Personal Freedom:

The story of Nora in *A Doll's House* centers on her battle to achieve personal freedom, a luxury that most women in the 19th century did not have. Women were not free to follow their own ambitions; instead, their lives were focused on providing for their families. Many women aspire to have personal freedom, as seen by Nora's desire

to explore life beyond her home environment. Lack of agency and freedom is one of the primary themes of *A Doll's House*. According to how she is portrayed, Nora is a normal middle-class woman whose primary responsibility is to her husband and kids. She is restricted to the confines of the house and forbidden from pursuing her own goals and passions. It is expected of Nora to be attractive, endearing, submissive, and not to trouble her husband with difficult issues She yearns more from life, though, and is not happy living in a cage. Nora's lack of financial independence serves as a metaphor for the restrictions that were put on women in the 19th century. It was believed that women should stay at home and rely on their husbands for financial assistance. Ibsen questions these social norms in the play by highlighting the psychological and emotional toll that they took on women like Nora(Johson,2007, pp.48-59).

Nora act in a trivial and insignificant manner from the first moment of the play. She looks like a standard doll; she lives in a doll's house, acts the part of a loving mother and wife, and submits to her husband's wishes and orders. But when Nora stealthily borrows money to save her husband's life, she shows her true power, independence, and cleverness. In contrast to the stereotype of women as docile and submissive held by society, she has the ability to act and make significant judgements. Furthermore, the play's conclusion demonstrates her will to live in a free and independent life free from the influence of masculine beliefs (Dalrymple,2016, pp.10-17).

Absence of Independence for Females:

A Doll's House illustrates how difficult it is for women to achieve equality and autonomy in a patriarchal culture. The revolutionary figure

embodied by Nora Helmer's persona defies conventional expectations of womanhood. Women who are still fighting for their rights can find inspiration in her journey towards self-actualization and autonomy. The play represents a timeless classic, which will always be meaningful and resonant for the people from all the eras and backgrounds. One of the main themes in this play, is the women's struggle for autonomy, was under the attention of literary community. The drama has been centered on Nora Helmer, who is a woman who has the aim of defining her own autonomy and identity while being trapped in a loveless marriage. Ibsen has examined difficulties that are faced by the women in the patriarchal society as well as women's liberty value through the journey that Nora takes(Kavka,1980, pp.33-47).

Women have had historical struggles to gain autonomy, or the right of self-governance, in the communities worldwide. This exact problem has been faced by Nora in this play. The social and economic restrictions of the Victorian era's on women have been examined in the drama. Through Nora's personality, her quest for independence, and social norms that stood in their way frequently(Kavka,1980,ibid).

Nora's Dilemma in the Play:

Nora's character in *A Doll's House*, faces many challenges. Her search for self and life's meaning is causing her difficulties. She is a woman yearning for autonomy and freedom for herself as well. Throughout this play, Nora is presented with a choice: remaining in the marriage and carrying on being a devoted wife and mother, or quitting it and pursuing her freedom and independence. She cannot find love in that marriage, but she is struggling to balance her needs for freedom with the responsibility she has

towards her family. In addition to that, she is struggling as well to balance her typical job of wife and mother(Waller,2017, pp.175-182).

One of the play's main problem is the fight for independence. The main character, Nora, struggles with both her own needs for independence and what society expects of women. Ibsen explores the nuances of gender roles and the struggle for freedom in a society that does not appreciate it through Nora's journey(Kaplan,1982, pp.47-60).

The Women's Lack Opportunities of Work:

The drama *A Doll's House* addresses the problems of gender inequality and the lack of prospects for women in the 19th century workplace. The play's main character, Nora, represents the difficulties that women went through during the period because they were not allowed to work equally and were restricted to household duties, which made them reliant on their husbands. The piece examines the ways in which women were excluded from certain job prospects(Tannen,2017, pp.150-165).

In Act 1, Nora remembers the moment her father died and she was left without any means of support. "I had to make a living for both of us," she says. I made every effort at the time that I could think of [Ibsen,2008,p.192]. This quote emphasizes the lack of opportunities that women had in the workforce at the time, which forced them to turn to unusual and frequently socially unacceptable means of supporting their families. The character of Mrs. Linde, who was formerly employed and is currently looking for work to support herself, discusses the difficulties faced by women in the workforce. "I haven't been so lucky," She continues, "but it's such a wonderful thing to believe that someone you" (Ibsen,2008, ibid). This

quote exposes the harsh reality for women seeking employment were not necessarily valued for their abilities, but rather for their gender. The character of Krogstad elucidates how women had limited job prospects. Despite his suspicion reputation, Krogstad serves as an embodiment of the significant limitations and discrimination that working class women face. He tells Nora, "Someone likes me with no family connections of money gets kicked around a bit. That's how things stand." This quotation highlights how, at the time, a person's gender and social background influenced their employment opportunities, with women frequently facing disadvantages. Torvald Helmer, Nora's spouse, is a living example of the social norms that restricted women's employment options. Act 1: "It's not in place for a married woman," he says, prohibiting Nora from working. According to Helmer's remarks, gender roles are strongly rooted, and he felt that a husband's responsibility was to support the family while a woman's place was in the home(Ibsen,2008,ibid).

The financial independence of women further exacerbates the demands placed on them by society of men. In Ibsen's day, women were discouraged from pursuing careers in caregiving and teaching and were not permitted to work on their own. Because of their complete financial dependence on men, men possessed dominating influence over them. In *A Doll's House*, Nora has no financial or legal rights; her husband manages all the finance. The cultural norms that define men as breadwinners and women as homemakers are reinforced by this economic dependency, which also places restrictions on women's ability to exercise their independence. The oppression that women experienced both within and outside of their homes is summed up in this sentence. It

highlights how important it is for women to become independent and free from social norms. (Tannen,2017, pp.150-165).

The Women's Lack of Financial Independence

The play's main topics include the women's experience of achieving financial independence at this time. One of the best examples of this lack of independence is main character Nora, who is stuck in a marriage where she is financially dependent on her husband. It becomes clear throughout the play that Nora is powerless over her personal finances. She and her Kids are totally dependent on her spouse Torvald for financial support. In addition to being unemployed, Nora cannot make any financial decisions without her husband's consent. As a result, their relationship develops a power dynamic that eventually makes Nora feel confined and miserable(Egan,2009, pp.70-81).

Nora's lack of financial independence serves as a metaphor for restrictions that were put on women in the 19th century. It was believed that women should stay at home and rely on their husbands for financial assistance. Ibsen questions these social norms in the play by highlighting the psychological and emotional toll that they took on women like Nora. Today, women's financial independence remains a major concern. A United Nations survey states that women make 23% less money than men worldwide, are more financially independent represent significant subjects to discuss and address due to the fact that the more we do so, the closer we will get to establishing a society where women and men have the same rights and opportunities. The wage gap raises the difficulty for the women in gaining financial independence and controlling their own lives. Additionally, women are often faced with obstacles when they try accessing financial

services like credit and loans. This lack in financial inclusion results in further perpetuating gender gap in the economic and social opportunities (Egan,2009, ibid).

Difficult Circumstances for Woman

This play is an illustration of hardship and challenges experienced by women in the 19th century society. Nora has been portrayed as a doll-like character subject to her husband's demands and societal expectations. Ibsen had illustrated the restrictions and limitations that women faced in this era throughout the journey that she takes. Her lack of autonomy and agency is a very important feature of Nora's situation. Torvald treats her like an object of affection, where he calls her by endearing nicknames, such as "little sky lark" and "little squirrel." The idea that women are weaker and more sensitive beings who need the protection and guidance of a man has been reflected in this infantilization of Nora. Also, Nora has a limited amount of time to pursue her objectives and interests, where she must live up to the standards set by the society of what it means to be a wife and mother as well. It is expected of her to take care of her husband's needs and carry out chores around the house without having any consideration of her own goals and wishes(Templeton,2010, pp.295-306).

In addition, Nora's precarious situation is even worse due to her not having any financial independence. She has been portrayed as being careless with the money and dependent fully on the income of her husband. After discovering her secret, Nora finds that she has nobody to turn to for support. She starts to discreetly take out loans in order to cover the medical expenses of her husband, which highlights the stark fact that women had a limited amount of financial power

and access, especially in the wealthy households(Egan,2009, pp.70-81).

Furthermore, when Nora decides to leave her family, this reflects the options that are open to women dissatisfied in their marriages. She must choose between remaining in a poisonous marriage and losing all that she owns for escaping that loveless marriage. She must take radical steps by society's lack support and understanding, and that emphasizes restrictions that are placed on women's options in that era(Showalter,1990, p.192).

The drama also draws attention to the hypocrisy and double standards that surround gender roles in society. While Nora is chastised and humiliated for having extramarital affairs, Torvald is free to do so. In addition to highlighting the lack of agency women have in making decisions about their own bodies and sexual preferences, this unfair treatment serves to further entrench Power of dynamics(Egan,2009, p.70-81).

Woman's Barriers to Independence:

The play depicts a society in which women must overcome multiple barriers in order to become independent and stand up for their own rights. The drama tells the tale of Nora Helmer, a woman seeking independence from her controlling spouse and social conventions. Ibsen's portrayal of Nora's character personifies the struggles and obstacles that women in the 19th century faced. Ibsen emphasizes a number of barriers that stand in the way of a woman's quest for independence throughout the play(Templeton,2010,pp. 295-306). Social expectations are a major barrier for women in the play. Women's behavior and activities are limited by the strong beliefs and norms held by society. In society, Nora plays the part of the submissive housewife who must attend to all of

her husband's needs. Nora's capacity to behave autonomously, keep her identity, and make her own decisions is hindered by this expectation. The societal norm that prohibits women from working or engaging in political activities further restricts their autonomy. Society and her husband Trovald view Nora more as a possession than as a human being (Tannen,2017, pp.150-165).

The absence of legal protection is another barrier for women in the play. Women are not allowed to make any legal judgment because they lack legal rights. Their weakness to abuse and expectations stems from this legal imbalance. Husband torments Nora, threatening to use his legal authority over her to control her actions. The notion that women lack decision-making authority in their life is further supported by this threat(Felski,1995, pp.170-188). Ultimately, cultural and religious ideas are the main source of problems faced by women in the play. Women were expected to submit to their spouses at all times because of social customs and religious beliefs that deemed them inferior to males. This way of thinking also hindered the women's capacity to become independent by emphasizing the value of their responsibilities as mothers and wives(Felski,1995, ibid).

In Ibsen's day as well as in our own contemporary society, in their quest for freedom. Even though they take different forms, the social, legal, and cultural barriers that women encounter still exist in modern society. Women will not be able to truly attain equality and freedom until these barriers are recognized, addressed and removeable (Templeton,2010, pp.295-306).

Feminist Concept in *A Doll's House*:

The drama *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen delves into the details of gender roles, societal norms, and the quest for autonomy and self-determination,

thereby introducing a groundbreaking feminist literary work. This intricate piece tackles a variety of feminist issues that were pertinent in the 1800s. It questions the norms and demands that were put on women in the 19th century, as well as the typical duties that women have in marriage and society. The restricted options that women have for education and personal development is one of the main

feminist concepts in *A Doll's House*. Nora is portrayed as an illiterate woman who depends on her husband for her financial security. "I have never been able to do anything, but what you wanted me" is a phrase that reflects her lack of agency and education. This demonstrates the expectations placed on women by society to be subservient and obedient rather than autonomous and self-sufficient (Meyer,2019, pp.527-545).

The objectification of women in *A Doll's House* is another feminist idea. Throughout the play, Nora is referred to as Torvald's doll and is handled as if she were an object or possession. "But you are my sweet little songbird," is Torvald's statement, which reflects this objectification. And you have to fly over to me when I whistle. This demonstrates how society expects women to be docile and obedient to their husbands (Johnson,2007, pp.48-59).

Gender roles and the notion that women should only stay in the home are other topics covered in the play. Nora is not afforded the same possibilities as men for personal development, freedom, and progress; instead, she is expected to fulfill the duties of wife and mother. Nora's comment, "I have been your doll-wife, just as at home I was Papa's doll-child," reflects this. This demonstrates how society expects women to be docile and obedient to males(Kavka,1980, pp.33-47).

The Significance of *A Doll's House* and its Effect on Women's Life:

Regarded as an influential drama in the feminist movement, Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* has had a profound effect on women's lives. The drama examines the expectations and conventions that society places on women as well as the lack of economic opportunities they face. The drama illustrates via the character of Nora Helmer the negative effects of these limitations and the necessity for women to stand up for their autonomy. The play is important because it challenges the patriarchal culture of the day. Nora is used by Ibsen to symbolize a victimized woman who is under the authority of her spouse and social conventions. She is presented as a mechanical doll created to embody the ideal mother and wife. Ibsen's use of the doll imagery, according to Ahmed Saber, "is a direct reference to how women were seen by society and is not simply a description of Nora's state." The play emphasizes the need for women to be treated as unique people with their own goals and aspirations through Nora's fight for independence (Saber, 2015, pp. 43-47).

The play's depiction of the negative effects of gender norms is also important. The character of Nora serves as an example of how the expectations society places on women can affect their relations, mental health, and sense of self. "The play illustrates how women were expected to suppress their desires in order to appease men and society, leading to a false sense of self and a loss of personal identity." As Karn Clements noted. A crucial moment that illustrates the necessity for women to declare their independence and defy gender norms is Nora's self-discovery and realization of her own value (Clements, 2009, pp. 225-240).

The play is also important in portraying the rights of women. *A Doll's House* mirrors the change concerning female's right throughout the late nineteenth century. The drama was primarily disputable because of its depiction of a female who left her family members, but it generated a debate about the woman's right in community. As Carrie Angel noted, "*A Doll's House* was instrumental in the discourse women's rights, paving the way for Women's Liberation Movement." The depiction of the drama of woman's rights to be independent of her life (Angell, 2018, pp. 113-121).

One could view Nora, the protagonist, as a portrayal of all repressed females. Through the drama, she battles to keep up the appearance of a submissive mother and wife as secretly hiding her own goals and aspirations. When Nora conceals a debt she took on to save the life of her husband from an act that could have put an end to his work and brought him to loss, it becomes clear how hard she has worked to save her husband. She shows her spouse and others that she is a frivolous and erratic woman while she spends years scrounging and saving money to pay off the loan. But as the play progresses, she comes to understand that her existence has been a lie and that her getting married was founded on a fabrication of her servitude. The ultimate choice Nora made to depart Torvald and her kids, in spite of the severe social and financial repercussions, is indicative of her battle for survival and independence. In her last act of self-realization, Nora challenges the patriarchal structure of her society and acknowledges her value as an individual, at last, waking up to harsh truth of her situation where her husband considers her as a thing or a possession instead of a wife [Clements, 2009, pp. 225-240].

Conclusion

Nora Helmer, a character in *A Doll's House*, is portrayed as an autonomous woman. Her path for being an independent woman demonstrates that woman, who is capable of taking chances and making her own decisions. In addition of reflecting Ibsen's opinions on women's rights, her character is a feminist icon. The tale of Nora continues to inspire women and serves as a reminder that they are capable of being independent. *A Doll's House* is a timeless drama that remains to be well-liked by viewers everywhere because it highlights the fight to be independent and survive in a restrictive community.

The play emphasizes the value of equality in rights for people of all genders and defies social norms that restrict people's protentional and confine them to all genders. The issue of women's restricted work choices in the late ninetieth century is also covered in the play. Women in play, like Nora Helmer and Kristine Linde, were confined to domestic duties and had their independence restrained by a patriarchal society.

In contrast, males as Krogstad and Torvald embodied societal norms that restricted female possibilities for employment, highlighting the idea that roles of gender were deeply rooted. Nonetheless, these two men support the critique of conventional gender roles and emphasize the necessity for females to overcome social limitations. Ibsen's work influence manhood, wedding, maternity, communication and circumstances demonstrates its significance.

The play's themes are still relevant nowadays, emphasizing how critical it is that woman's rights continue to be discussed and protected in society. It does an effective criticism of exposing the social traditions and anticipations that woman faced in the ninetieth century. Feminist icon Nora reflects

Ibsen's views on women's rights. Women are still encouraged by Nora's and are reminded that they can become independent.

Despite being set in the past, *A Doll's house* still has relevance nowadays because women still aspire to independence and equal opportunities in the workforce. Women's lives Are still impacted by this significant at present time. The play also confronts the expectations and conventions that society places on women and emphasizes the importance of female autonomy, empowerment, and the acknowledgement of their rights. It depicts the fight that women still face today for self-fulfillment, autonomy, and freedom through the character of Nora.

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