

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PRESENTED IN “AGNI SAKSHI” MOVIE DIRECTED BY PARTHO GHOSH IN CONNECTION WITH “UNBROKEN” POEM BY WARSAN SHIRE

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| Article Info | Abstract |
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| <p>Received:10/02/2025 Revised: 16/02/2025 Accepted:10/03/2025</p> <p>Keywords: Patriarchy, Harassment, Sexual abuse, Mental trauma, Physical Torture, Women's Empowerment</p> | <p>Woman was considered as 'Other' in earlier times, if we go through the history of women, whether it is about foreign women or Indian women. She was treated like a toy that anyone could play with. She had no right to get educational access, or was she welcomed in political or economic spheres? She was taught that she was made for the household chores only. She was only getting a domestic education. She was only asked that she has to raise the children, and that was her only area of work. She was assigned the task of raising children and taking care of her husband, and pleasing him. Patriarchy never allowed women to be independent rather enslaved them, but after a long struggle, they got their fundamental rights. “Agni Sakshi” movie aired in 1996, directed by Partho Ghosh and “Unbroken” poem by Warsan Shire are remarkable sources to present women's empowerment.</p> |

INTRODUCTION

Women have suffered a lot for their identity, respect, honour and survival. For centuries, they were pawns at the hands of patriarchy. Patriarchy never respected women and their rights. They enslaved them sometimes in the name of religion or their household duties. Women were dependent on their father, husband or son. If we look the history, then women had no right to get an education or to write publicly like men. For example, Mary-Ann-Evans, a British writer, has produced literature under the name of George Eliot. She used to hide her identity due to patriarchal norms because women were not welcomed wholeheartedly in the intellectual sphere. But afterwards women started raising their voices against of this injustice. They fought for their identity, for

survival, respect and honour and equality. For example, they have started various movements called suffrage movement, women's liberation movement, feminism to get recognised by the world and for equality in every field, against injustices and inequalities. Finally after the Russian Revolution, International Women's Day was celebrated as a tribute to their resilience, hard work and dedication in various fields. So finally, women started to get their rights and they are being recognised by the society. Taking into consideration the aforesaid issue, I would like to look deep into the nature of women's empowerment, breaking patriarchal norms. In earlier times, women suffered a lot due to patriarchy. We are familiar with our

Indian “Sati” tradition that a woman was burned alive forcefully at the funeral of her husband. How pathetic the conditions they have gone through, we can’t even imagine. But nowadays, women are ruling every field. For example, the President of India is a woman, Finance Minister of India is a woman. We are proud of it but still, there are some women facing problems due to patriarchy. Agni Sakshi's move is one of the best examples of it.

“Agni Sakshi” movie, aired on 1996, is one of the remarkable movies in the movement of Feminism. It is directed by Partho Ghosh written by Ranbir Pushp and Hirday Lani and starred by Manisha Koirala, Nana Patekar and Jackie Shroff and “Unbroken” poem by Warsan Shire are essential to understand harassment, mental trauma and finally woman empowerment like a phoenix.

Agni Sakshi: Review

Suraj Kapoor is a wealthy man, and he meets Shivangi and they fall in love with each other. During their honeymoon time, one person comes there and claims that she is his wife and her real name is Madhu. A couple is shocked. Afterwards, a man called Suraj he says that his name is Wishvanath and he shows his wedding video, but Suraj didn't believe. On Shivangi's birthday flashback of Madhu and Wishvanath's Marriage is revealed, and it is confirmed that Shivangi is none other than Madhu, Wishvanath's wife. It is revealed that he tortured her a lot. He prohibited her from having friends. He lives alone with her. He never allows her to talk to any man. Even her father comes on her birthday, then Wishvanath didn't allow him to meet her, saying now she is his wife and he is dead for her. He abuses her physically and mentally in the name of love, not considering her consent and will. He never allows her to spend time outside except when needed. He treats her like a toy, and he tortures her harshly, not having sympathy just because she asked whether he hadn't invited his friends to her birthday. He turns her birthday into a bad day due to her possessiveness. Fed up with his possessiveness and toxic relationship, she bears another name called letting her enjoy freedom. He made her forget about her father and the society and her liberty.

You are the mathematician
of my heart

You calculate the cost
of my love

You measure the depth
of my sorrow

But still I rise unbroken

Shivangi searches for true love. Finally met Suraj Kapoor and was enjoying my life freely.

“Unbroken” poem, written by Warsan Shire, explores themes of resilience, strength, and the enduring spirit of a woman in adverse times, especially in mental trauma and abuse. Women's empowerment in the “Agni Sakshi” movie and the “Unbroken” poem as follows.

You are the cartographer of my soul

You draw the borders

Of my pain

You make the atlas

Of my scars

In this poem unnamed person is a cartographer and he has prepared a map of her soul and he drew the borders by her pain. It means he is the creator of her painful fate, and she is inside of borders of her pain. She is sad. He has made a map of her scars, not thinking of her will and happiness. In Agni Sakshi movie as well, Wishvanath, husband of Madhu, has made her life hell. She cannot break his boundaries. She can't think beyond those boundaries; otherwise, she has to suffer, get pain and agony. For example, on her birthday, she asks about his friends' absence, then her husband tortures her a lot. She shivers looking at him, but he doesn't care for her and only thinks of his possessiveness. Her world was limited only to him. She was not free to think, to talk and to enjoy.

You are the archaeologist

Of my memories

You uncover the relics

Of my past

You brush off the dust

Of my forgotten dreams

In this poem, the unnamed person is the archaeologist. He decides her world. He uncovered her past, her aspirations, dreams and treated it as unimportant and dismissed it and forgot it. In the Agni Sakshi movie as well, Wishvanath does the same. He doesn't care.

about her wife's dream, her will, her happiness and consent. He only thinks of his happiness, and he makes her live according to his wishes, not

In this poem unnamed person is her mathematician of her heart. He decided what was good and bad for her. He makes her live inside boundaries. He measures her happiness in a mathematical pattern. Not giving her importance. He decides her cost of love. In the Agni Sakshi movie, Wishvanath decides what is good and bad for his wife. He has made her world hell. She cannot cross boundaries made by him. She is enslaved by his mathematical calculations. She has to pay the cost of her love. You measure the depth
Of my sorrow, But still I rise unbroken

Though an unnamed person made her suffer a lot, she went through trauma, but she has the power to deal with it. He can give her pain. He can measure the depth of her pain, but she has the power to resist. She heals herself, and she rises unbroken. His torture does not break her at

Conclusion:

After reading Warsan Shire's poem "Unbroken" and "Agni Sakshi" movie, we understand that there is a limit to everything. We can understand that adverse conditions make us stronger. In the Unbroken poem, though a man tries to make the speaker's life hell but she didn't let her hope go and out of that difficult time, she made herself strong and confident that man could not break her. Though she suffers but she is unbroken, unshakable, confident. In the Agni Sakshi movie as well, Madhu is not that much strong while

any cost. When Wishvanath tortures her physically and mentally then she decides to take another path of happiness, breaking his norms after getting a chance. She gets a new identity and gathers the courage to deal with it. For example, when Wishvanath teaches her shooting, then she is not ready, she is scared, she shivers, but at the end, to get out of his clutches and hell, she holds a gun in her hand and tries to kill him. Another example, when she lives with Wishvanath, then she bears all the pain. She doesn't dare to utter a single word, but afterwards, she makes herself strong, then she tries to resist him, for example, when he catches her hand and puts her into the car, then she tries to free herself from him. It means she got the courage to face the adverse conditions, and at last she declares on his face that if he wants her back in his life, then he will get only her body, not her soul. In earlier times, she was just crying and was unable to utter a single word, used to bear all the pain but in the end, she empowers herself with courage and confidence.

living with Wishvanath. She bears all the pain without any complaint. She never resists.

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