

SURVIVING CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND ADULTHOOD OF NYNKA THROUGH LENS OF HER MOTHER ANYA, IN SUSAN SCHAEFFER S ANYA.

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ABSTRACT

Childhood is the most beautiful, adventurous and innocent time in a livelihood, on the stages of growth every being encourages for adulthood alike natural habitation. On this event a certain group of American writers came into discuss an American response to holocaust massacre, in this group Susan Schaeffer Fromberg writes aftermath of war in the lives of Poland natives and the survival of Anya for an independent life. The paper attempts to give some thoughts on Anya s daughter Nynka who witnessed the whole journey of survival, though as a child the graph of the event was not understood, but later which affected her identity on growing in an American world dwelling a serious impact through childhood events. In adult life the story is said from the perspective of Anya the mother letting an understanding of parenthood as a struggling single mother.

Keywords: *Childhood trauma, Holocaust, Parent s role, Adult trauma, Social*

1. INTRODUCTION

Susan Fromberg Schaeffer writes on American fiction, of 1970 s her fictions are wrote with elaborate detailing on the character structure and here expresses their emotions in the deeper level and follows historical connection to the writings and with accordance of each situation the rise and flow of every character is a journey to self a

search unsaid boundaries. Norma Rosen novel Anya (1974) covers the struggle family in the time of Holocaust; the Savkin had to live the time of war. Nynka, the spent her childhood in the time of darkness it affected her adult self in future.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The novel is set and said from the life decisions of Nynka s mother Anya in scarcity of happiness. An understanding; an individual has become a slave of circumstances by doubting her existence human being and most commonly be widowed. Although the traits of a woman more careful on handling her child emotion and physically can be interpreted as a struggle, As Prof. Bruis suggests, "Women either struggle with pre-existing mental problems or the birth of a child can trigger childhood traumas and experiences. (P. Fiona) thus the whole aspect of mother manipulates the young free spirited person does Anya.

The story is said from her early teenage and traditional strong mother who survived at the early stage of life. Anya as a mother influenced from her mother in adapting nature of motherhood responsibilities. Although the situations were different Anya had to her daughter at the time were children were unsafe in concentration camps and then of

unending search of finding Nynka.

...The quest for family was much more than a search for relatives. It often involved some traumatic soul searching for children to rediscover their true identity. Those who had been infants when they were placed into hiding had no recollection of their biological parents or knowledge of their Jewish origins. The only family that most had known was that of their rescuers. Consequently, when relatives or Jewish organizations discovered them, they were typically apprehensive and sometimes resistant to yet another change. (Authors, Holocaust Museum)

The question of concern is that when and what could lead to childhood trauma, at the age where everyone deserves to know new things and newer understandings like the birth stage. For the same reason each child is awakened to realization of reality only through the level of challenges they ought to face for where they belong and kind of opportunities, they get in realizing their adventure, as one would say individuals would go through three kinds of birth, the first at the birth stage and the second at the physical birth the stage that witnesses curious questions and answers, they understand the answers which are true in one side can be negative in another world, like the world of another child. In the same appetite of knowledge every child craves a new self formation. Susan Schaeffer in *Anya* highlights the post holocaust novel and shares experience of many in this human massacre, the main story travels through Anya, the protagonist in understanding her daughter and fails in the path of battling the motherhood Anya possesses.

While evaluating Anya's childhood and Nynka's childhood in comparison of analysis is needed; Anya on the path of explaining her story from a

rich family background and traditional beliefs. Her parents, siblings all of them lived together, being the eldest she was the favorite of her father and her keen interest in knowledge and concern about sisters and brothers. But the situation is not same in the case of Nynka who had lived in the frontier of war, she has no connection to the father figure and her best part as a child was in someone else's home being a foster child then taking another step by getting back with her mother again. On the troubling teens she had to go and take decisions on her own.

To bring up the story as of a comparison between mother and daughter was different traumatic description because of the familial influence, Anya in her childhood had to take things in the comfort zone of father love and the same concerns turned as a nightmare in the case of Nynka because her father was a revolutionist who got killed in the war. The absent father figure not only impacted in the early childhood, but in past when she was in her mother's womb.

The condition of trauma in adulthood is passed on the next generation, when the novel portrays Anya's husband as a revolutionary spirit and who just vanished in the holocaust Anya who was carrying the child at the time in her womb had experienced severe depression, loneliness and that too seen at the episode of Nynka's birth in the hospital. Thus all the instances leading to the understanding that Anya whose life can be categorized after and before being a mother and that took the turn becoming an individual especially in a patriarchal world of expectation, but staying with the same, excluding the happiness for that sake of sense generated from the accepted motherhood regime. The topic dwells the childhood of Nynka as an after effect of Anya or the parent whose decisions to be a mother but though the historical aspects it must not be alienated.

The novel sets the preliminary knowledge that war has impacted the lives in many paths, but the children of wars, especially new mothers of the time who went into dilemma of asking the question whether to keep the children with them or give them someone who will take care of them, at the time were nobody was believed, anything can happen for hunger, a community was hunted. To an extent the impact of religious beliefs stays a pointed view on bringing up the child, on the time humans were disgraced on the basis of community, hunted to death, it was the darkest of the time and religious existence were challenged.

The life cycle of Anya later then transferred completely in the light of Nynka, who in the new American identity had to be an American in core, on this imitation her mother's role just ended up being a spectator. The entire life of Anya has become a mirage. In analysis, trauma as an experience of living in the dark room, but also it is the light that foreshadowed from generations in a misconception of point of view. The life of Anya is set on the strong family tradition that co link between two cultures, the mother being a Russian migrated to Poland and her father who melt himself in the language of Polish culture. Although the family struggled in managing finance due to loss of her father's business and mother has to balance the daily lives of everyone in the family.

Towards Nynka, the third generation of the family grows as an intergenerational atmosphere on the outskirts of war, the impact of holocaust lights in each of these characters at their living stages on molding self. Identity issues are submerged with the historical trauma showing the impacts in managing relationships, although the cultural values has a strong limit in pertaining to any decision. In the case of the mother, she

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had to flee from own land to another world, the strong racial discrimination faced as Jew during the time which embarks a journey of becoming. But her true strands are laid to her daughters among which Anya is the eldest.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The meaning of the conducted research was on childhood trauma and its impact on a mother-daughter especially on a war survivor. The approach followed psychological approach that particular on dealing adulthood traumas and the research method is descriptive. The relevance of the topic is the struggle of human mind especially in dealing with relationships and mental maturity to accept other person's reality. Research method followed was qualitative and in the research process once the gap was found the idea of past trauma intervening the present especially in a mother-daughter relationship was an unavoidable subject.

CONCLUSION

Trauma acts an important role in every life, can challenge daily routines. As humans live in a civilized society everything was set in certain social rule and when this existing condition ignores the individual needs and always never pays attention to the happiness in patriarchal point of view. The idea is not indication of any gender specific objective to the mental health of an adult who was supposed to establish a relationship between mind and body is completely void.

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