CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter will explain the theories as the foundation of the creative writing thesis. This chapter will consist of three parts; the first part is the formal theories, the second part is critical theories, and the third part is studies on earlier works.

2.1 Formal Theories

This part will also explain some of the formal elements of the short story, which will discuss more the things that exist in the short story, such as the definition of the short story, character and characterization, plot, theme, settings, and point of view.

2.1.1 Definition of a Short Story

According to Webster's Dictionary (1989), a short story is a piece of prose fiction, usually under 10.000 words. Short stories are much shorter than novels; short stories usually have only a few characters and focus on a single incident (Nur, 2017). Short stories also lend themselves more to experimentation—that is, using uncommon prose styles or literary devices to tell the story. Such uncommon styles or devices might get tedious and downright annoying, in a novel, but they may work well in a short story. The precursors of short stories were legends, mythic tales, folk tales, fairy tales, fables, and anecdotes which were present in various ancient communities across the world (Raval, 2019).

In the short story itself, several elements form the basis of making a short story, such as; character-characterization, plot, theme, setting-time, and point of view. The maturation of these elements will produce a quality short story. Because of their short form, short stories have the characteristics of compaction and concentration of something that is being told. According to Sugihastuti (2007), a short story is a perfect form of a story because it can be read quickly and thus achieves a unity of effect or impression that other, longer forms cannot convey (Bahri et al., 2021).

2.1.2 Character and Characterization

In making a literary work in the form of a story, be it a short story or a novel, there must be several people who have their respective roles and characteristics. The presence of these people in a story can be said to be essential because these people play a role in carrying out the story. The people in the story are called characters. Characters are the people (or sentient animals, creatures, beings, etc.) that populate a story. Characters are more than just their physical attributes and descriptions; characters do actions—talk, think, interact—within the world of a story (England, 2020).

According to Russell (2010), characters can be divided into three types: The protagonist, The Antagonist, and the Foil characters.

a.) **The Protagonist**: Usually becomes the main character in the movie and has good behaviors.

b.) **The Antagonist**: The figure who opposes the protagonist and creates a conflict is usually the evil character in the story.

c.) **The Foil Characters**: The figure with different personality traits from the main characters. Usually, the supporting characters in the movie help the main character to shine.

Still related to the previous statement, Russel (2010), also stated there are two ways the characters are portrayed: Flat characters do not have depth and no change, mostly portrayed by supporting characters, for example, an evil stepmom, a lousy neighbor, etc. Round/dynamic characters have more developed personalities. Mostly portrayed by the protagonist and the antagonist of the movie, who expresses a range of emotions and changes throughout the movie (Umboro, 2021).

According to Gill (1995), characters can be classified into minor characters (antagonists) and major characters (protagonists):

a.) **Antagonist Character**: Related when the story has a conflict for the protagonist character to achieve the goals that the protagonist character is represented for the audience. The antagonist characters are usually known as basic characters in the story.

b.) **Protagonist Character**: The characters are usually good characters who usually solve the problem of a story and fight against the antagonist. (Indriani et al., 2019).

There are differences between character and characterization; a character is a person in literal work and characterization is how a character is created. Characterization means an author uses to describe or develops a character for the reader. Also, characterization means how the writer tells the readers about the

physical and physical characteristics of the person in the story (Ardiyanthi, 2010). Characterization may explain the physical description of the character, the description of the environment, the description of the sense of fashion or how the character's dressed up, the description of the behavior of the character—toxic and positive traits of the character, the description of the character's state of mind, how the character's speech, how the character behaves towards the surroundings, and the character's interactions between each character. It can be concluded that characterization focuses more on the detailed description of the character, intending to make it easier for the reader to interpret the shape of the character in the story.

Characterization aside from discussing good characters (protagonists) and bad characters (antagonists), characterization also discusses round characters which is this character is complex and unpredictable, while the flat character is simple and predictable. According to Judith A. Stanford, the flat character tends to stay the same throughout a story. Meanwhile, round characters often changer-learns or became enlightened, grow, or deteriorate. Judith also describes the types of characters as follows (Kusumawati, 2007):

- **Dynamic Character:** This character is a character who changes in some significant way during the course of the work.
- **Round Character:** A character who shows many different facets: often presented in depth and with great detail.
- **Flat Character:** A character who usually had only one outstanding trait or feature.
- **Static Character:** A character who does not change in any significant way during the course of the work.

- **Protagonist Character:** A major character with whom readers generally sympathize.

- **The Antagonist Character:** A character with whom the protagonist was in conflict, generally not a sympathetic character.

One thing that needs to be emphasized to the reader; not all the characters that appear in the story have a life in the real world, because some characters may appear from the imagination of the writer or maybe adapted from someone's experience. In addition to focusing on the physical description of the characters, the reader must also focus on the relevance of the characters in the story—description, dialogue, thoughts, feelings, actions-reactions, and imagery. The relevance of the character to the story can determine the success of the writer in making a story.

2.1.3 Plot

One of the important elements in a story is the plot has a role to develop and also becomes a story timeline so that the story can be told coherently and can be easily understood by readers. The plot is how the author arranges events to develop the author's basic idea. It is the sequence of events in a short story or play. The plot is a planned, logical series of events having a beginning, middle, and end. Plot has a strong connection with the character (Nur, 2017). The plot is the idea that determines how the story will flow. The plot will relate one action to another to make a good organization of the story. In a well-plotted story, nothing is irrelevant; everything is related. In the story, time is important not simply because one thing happens after another, but because one thing happens because of another (I, 2004). According to Diyanni (2000), the plot usually contains several parts; exposition,

rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Here's the chart that using to explain the steps of the plot:
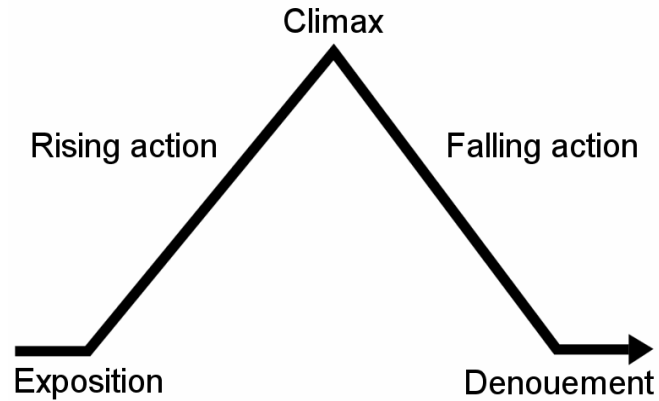

Figure 2.1: Plot Pyramid

a.) **Exposition**: The opening/beginning of the story, which introduces the characters, setting, and background information of the story, to help the audience to understand and follow the story.

b.) **Rising Action**: The part of the story in which the conflict of the story occurs. Usually, there are two conflicts faced by the main characters; internal and external conflicts.

c.) **Climax**: When the main character must face the greatest conflict. The climax is the peak of the story, usually featuring the culminating conflicts and struggles the main character has had throughout the story.

d.) **Falling Action**: When the tension of the story calms down.

e.) **Resolution (Denouement)**: When the conflict of the story is resolved (Umboro, 2021).

According to Stanton (1965), mentioned that there are two important elements of the plot: conflict and climax. He divides it into two parts:

a.) **Internal Conflict**: The conflict between two desires within a character. Here, the conflict happened because of the opposing desires or values in the character's minds, and they have to choose the best one for them.

b.) **External Conflict**: The conflict between a character and their environment. There may be a conflict of characters against fate and the circumstances that exist between them and their goals of themselves. Besides, it happened because of the different opinions of the characters.

Staton also states that the theory of conflict and climax is essential. It will be used in analyzing the second formulation (I, 2004).

2.1.4 Theme

One of the elements of a short story is the theme. This theme has a role as the basic foundation of the topic that will be raised in the story. A theme is the main idea of an essay, paragraph, or book. The idea about life is revealed in a work of literature. The message may be about life, society, or human nature. Themes often explore timeless and universal ideas and may be implied rather than stated explicitly (Ardiyanthi, 2010). This statement explains that all kinds of themes can be used without any time limit and any gender or social restrictions. A mature and clear theme can easily convey the message the writer wants to the reader.

In addition to having a role as the basic foundation for making stories, themes also form the basis or benchmark for dialogue in stories. The theme may be the author's thoughts about a topic or view of human nature. The theme is the

underlying meaning of the story, a universal truth, a significant statement the story is making about society or nature and the human condition (Nur, 2017). According to Shipley, the theme might be equivalent to the revelation of human characters in many stories. Shipley (1979) also differentiates the theme of literary work based on the level of soul experience, from the simple one to the complex (Kusumawati, 2007)

- **Physic Level of Theme**: This theme usually saw humans as molecules. This kind of theme is more physical activity and the soul conflict of the characters.

- **Organic Level of Theme**: This theme usually saw humans as protoplasm. This kind of theme is more about sexuality problems.

- **Social Level of Theme**: This theme usually talks about human social life. This kind of theme is more focused on the relationship between the characters and society, also this theme is focusing on social issues.

- **Ego Level of Theme**: This theme usually focuses on the ego of a human as an individual.

- **Divine Level of Theme**: This theme usually saw humans as the highest creature which is sometimes not all humans deal with. The problems in this theme are the problems between creatures and their creator.

Of the various types listed above, it shows that the theme is the main idea that has control over the story. That's why the writer needs to determine and finalize the theme before writing a story because the theme controls the story.

2.1.5 Setting and Time

One of the important elements in a short story is the setting and time, which can help the reader imagine the place in the story and the storyline according to the time. The setting is the geographical space in which the story takes place. The dramatic situation has to do with some kind of action, and the shaped action is the narrative purpose manifested in the careful shaping of action (Alami, 2016). Some of that directness of setting still exists, but it has become intertwined with other elements—particularly with mood and atmosphere—and it has become less clear an element. The reader still knows generally knows where a story takes place, but the readers' views of the setting of the place itself have become sophisticated. Setting often generates more complex ideas and becomes diffuse, leading into several other elements—such as theme, character, and plot. Frequently, it is the theme to which the setting is attached, not only a particular time and a particular place but the very substance of a region, down to its dust—how the people think, how they react, their prejudices, their insanities, their very lifestyle—with all elements suggested indirectly (Hamalian et al., 1978).

According to Kennedy and Gioia, settings have four elements. There are places and times to show how characters act, and how the characters socialize with others, how the characters show their human nature to the audience when they see it (Indriani et al., 2019). Setting and time are references to determine the atmosphere, circumstance, mood, and also theme of the story to be discussed. These backdrops provide spaces and eras for characters to act and interact within, allowing them to, say, buy stereos, plot bank robberies, leap over tall buildings, and fall in

love. Characters can't do any of these interesting actions if the writer doesn't provide an appropriate backdrop in which to do them (England, 2020).

2.1.6 Point of View

In a story, there must always be a narrative that is presented from a certain point of view. Narrative delivery from a certain point of view can affect the content and details of the story. The point of view is the position of the author in a story. This means that the author can be positioned as a character in the story or as someone who is outside the story (Zainuddin, 2020). Point of View refers to the lens through which the story is told. Point of View is defined into three types: (England, 2020).

a.) **A First-Person POV**: This point of view takes the close, subjective perspective of a narrator using the pronouns "I" and "me".

b.) **A Second-Person POV**: This point of view uses the direct address pronoun of "you".

c.) **A Third-Person POV**: This point of view employs the perspective of a distance, with the narrator using the pronouns of "she", "he", and "it".

Determining the point of view is essential in a story because, from these three points of view, there will be many differences in narrating a story. If from the first point of view, usually, the story will tend to explain feelings, thoughts, and opinions from the narrator's point of view. The point is that the first point of view tends to be subjective. The second point of view uses the subject "you" to describe the reader. Meanwhile, the third point of view is usually the most general point of

view, because, from this point of view, the reader only knows the views of the characters in general and without any subjective explanation.

2.2 Critical Theories

This part will also explain some of the critical theories about early marriage and women's empowerment, which is these theories are the background issues included in the story.

2.2.1 Early Marriage

According to the Girls Not Brides Website (2017), child marriage is a problem that often occurs in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, South Asia, and Europe with statistics showing that around 12 million girls marry before their 18th year each year. This statement is also supported by UNICEF (2017), This situation makes child marriage a global issue that must be addressed collectively by the international community. This was carried out as a continuation of the post-achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) between 2000 and 2015. The global community also states that child marriage violates children's human rights, limits their choices and opportunities, and makes them vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse (Lubis et al., 2021).

Cases or issues of early marriage in Indonesia are not something new, even cases of early marriage in Indonesia are widely practiced in several regions or tribes in Indonesia. Many cases of early marriage in Indonesia have been carried out by Indonesian ancestors. However, recent cases of early marriage have been increasingly discussed and have been blown up again. Due to the high number of cases of early marriage in Indonesia, it is not uncommon for many women aged 14-

19 to spread content on social media about those who are married and have a child at a young age. According to BPS (2016), Indonesia is part of the top countries with the highest number of child marriages, ranking seventh globally. In 2012, there are 1,348,886 girls married before the age of 18. In other words, about 3,695 girls married per day, or about one in four Indonesian girls were child brides. Of these girls, 292,663 married before the age of 16 and 110,198 before the age of 15 (Yunizar, 2020).

According to the data released by UNICEF and UNFPA (2018), The report titled "*Child Marriage: Latest Trends and Future Prospects.*" Shows that 21 percent of young women currently aged 20-24 are still children when they get married. Globally there are about 650 million girls and women who live today and are married before their 18th birthday. Indonesia is the one of countries that have high rates of child marriage, related to the study of *Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia* in its study "*Girls Not Brides*", 1 in 8 Indonesian young women are married before the age of 18. This study is also supported by the data from the National Socioeconomic Survey conducted by *Badan Pusat Statistik* where the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who have the status of marrying or living together before the age of 18 years is 11.54% (2017), 11.21% (2018), 10.82% (2019), and 10.35% (2020) (Kirana & Nisak, 2022). If we pay attention to these data, it can be concluded that Indonesia has enough problems in overcoming cases of early marriage. I don't know if it's influenced by tradition or people's point of view, but what is clear is that cases of early marriage are not a good thing for developing countries like Indonesia, because many cases of early marriage usually have an impact on poverty.

Reflecting on the perspectives and stigma circulating in the society in Indonesia, it can be said that it is natural and make sense that cases of early marriage in Indonesia are said to be high. In the society in Indonesia, marriage is the complement and the highest tier of women's happiness. Many people create the view that by getting married, women are not only happy or become "whole" women, but their lives will be much easier because there are husbands who can support the lives of women and families. Because of this view, it is not uncommon for many young women in Indonesia to decide to marry young, without understanding the basic foundations, the real purposes, and the responsibilities of marriage. This is unfortunate because the seriousness and sacredness of marriage become so trivial. They don't see the side effects of not being ready to build a household, so they easily decide to divorce. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, many young people decided to marry at a relatively young age. The COVID-19 pandemic could also contribute to increasing the number of child marriages worldwide because of its global impact. According to Yukich (2021), five countries (Bangladesh, Brazil Ethiopia, India, and Nigeria) that accounted for 50% of global child marriage estimated the total number of child marriages after the pandemic until 2035 could be 3.5-4.9 million if it is not mitigated. The study based on a self-reported survey conducted by the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik/BPS) before the pandemic found that 1 in 9 girls aged 20-24 married before 18 years old. Even during the emergence of COVID-19 in Indonesia, show the reliable child marriage numbers in Indonesia, between 2020 and 2021, and this study also related to Yukich's statement (Julianto et al., 2022).

A. Factors Influencing the Decision to Marry Early

Early marriage is not something new in Indonesian society. Moreover, the concept of early marriage has existed since ancient times. With the view that is widespread in Indonesian society, namely *'banyak anak, banyak rejeki.'* Where this view leads Indonesian people to assume that fortune will always come when someone is married. For this reason, there are so many young in Indonesia who decide to marry first without being financially, physically, and mentally prepared. If examined further, here are some factors that influence the view of early marriage.

(1) **Tradition (Socio-Cultural)**: Tradition is also one of the factors that influence the occurrence of early marriage. Moreover, this view of early marriage has been formed since ancient times, this has become a habitat and a culture that has been embedded in society. Marriage sometimes becomes a social pressure or families to conform. Some so many relatives kept asking about marriage to their single young relatives. In many contexts, early marriage is legitimized by patriarchy, and related family structures, which ensure that marriage transfers a father's role over his girl child to her future spouse (Michael, 2014).

(2) **Poverty**: Poverty is also one of the reasons that encourage many early marriages. Back again to the view that getting married, it can bring good fortune and besides that, it will make it easier for the woman's family because, in the end, the woman becomes the responsibility of her husband. According to International Center for Research on Women (2007) and Nour (2009), in some societies, a young girl may be seen as an economic burden for their parents. Nour stated that socio-economic status also becomes one

of the factors that cause early marriage because some society believes that besides marriage could reduce economic burden, they also believe that marriage could secure their daughter's financial security. Besides that, some families also believe that marrying off their daughters can increase the degree or caste of the women's family.

(3) **Religious Practices**: In certain countries, you must know that several religions support early marriage. Some religion states that early marriage could claim that a girl child is betrothed to a deity in the spirit world and implication. They believe by marrying a young girl could be representative of the deity. Also, some religions see nothing wrong in early marriage (Goodluck & Josephine, 2022).

(4) **Girl's Safety**: Society thinks that by getting married, the woman's safety will be much more secure. They believe that marriage is the best solution to maximize their daughter's protection, because when their daughter marries a man then they'll instantly have someone who can take care of her—her husband. According to Caldwell (1997) and Ahmed (2014), early marriage is one way of ensuring that a wife is fully 'protected' because they know that the woman is placed firmly under male control. Besides that reason, society believes that getting girls married at a tender age is to avoid premarital sex. Especially in some society saw virginity is become sacred and highly valued (Said, 2019).

An all-encompassing strategy is needed to address these factors, as well as those that promote gender equality, strengthen legal systems, and their enforcement, increase access to education, give girls and women economic opportunities, and

challenge harmful cultural norms and practices. Involving the community, running awareness programs, and giving girls and young women the tools they need to make wise decisions about their lives and futures are also necessary.

B. Impact and The Consequences of Early Marry

Early marriage has far-reaching consequences that affect many facets of a person's life, particularly for girls and young women. These consequences can be both immediate and long-term, affecting their affecting their physical, emotional, social, and financial well-being. Here are some of the possible impacts of early marriage:

(1) **Financial Issues**: One of the essential issues in a marriage is finances. Economic problems in the household are so crucial because this can affect survival in a family. Therefore, before deciding to get married, as much as possible the couple who are going to get married are prepared economically. Due to their lack of education, these girls cannot get employment hence they cannot improve their lives. The girls are denied the opportunity to empower themselves, to become independent and successful women (Said, 2019).

(2) **Educational Attainment and Learning**: Early marriage isn't the wisest decision to be taken by young women. Early marriage could hinder women's opportunities to be educationally prepared and learn to develop their quality. This possibly happens because young women will be hampered by their responsibilities as a wife/daughter-in-law/mother in the family. Once out of school, young women aren't able to continue

their study opportunities again. This could give important implications for their ability to enter the formal labor force and earn money once they do so (The Economic Impacts of Child Marriage, 2017)

(3) **Physical Health**: One of the effects of early marriage is health. Not all women who marry at a young age have physical readiness. The physical readiness in question is the maturity of the reproductive organs, because of that women who marry too early are quite risky to conceive. According to Fisher et al. (2015), girls who marry early are at risk of health complications such as cervical cancer and those that are associated with childbirth not forgetting, sexually transmitted infections as well as HIV/AIDS (Tembo, 2021).

(4) **Fertility and Population Growth**: One of the impacts of early marriage is fertility which causes population growth. Many studies found that girls were significantly associated with high fertility and poor fertility outcomes such as rapid repeat childbirth, unwanted pregnancy, and pregnancy termination (Nasrullah, 2015).

(5) **Psychological**: One of the important things that must be possessed by someone who wants to get married is mental readiness. In this marriage, the couple will be faced with new responsibilities and problems that are heavier and more demanding in nature. For this reason, before someone decides to get married, they must realize that they are mentally prepared. If you don't have mental readiness, it will be easy to get depression or end up in family disharmony—this is caused by unstable age, where their mental and personality is not yet mature. Besides that, not everyone

who marries at a young age can face the transitional phase, because they do not necessarily have a mature personality, and way of thinking so they are prone to conflict (Handayani, et al., 2021).

It is essential to remember that the impact of early marriage might differ depending on cultural, social, economic, and physical health. However, early marriage often hinders women's empowerment, hinders gender equality, and hinders the achievement of sustainable development goals. To enhance the rights, well-being, and women's empowerment.

2.2.2 Women Empowerment

Living in a world that is so fixated on stigma and an outlook on life that is based on patriarchy, sometimes creates obstacles for women to develop. As a result of this view, society often hinders the development6 of women's abilities. People are afraid that if women are given the opportunity and place to continue to develop, then women will be far superior to men, and they are also afraid that women will feel they don't need men. The idea that women might hold such positions and suspicion that they might exercise power somewhat differently than men no longer seems as alarming to people as in the past (Carli & Eagly, 2001). This is what people often express when they see women developing. Sourced from this fear, it eventually led to doctrines that led to women being made dependent on men.

Reflecting on the problems of this view, this is the right time to promote women's empowerment in society. Then what is women's empowerment? Women's empowerment defines the mounting of the overall divine capacity of women's domestic and social existence, with political, social, educational, or

economic strength. It is seriously reliant on numerous variables that comprise geological situation, social status, educational status, and age. Empowerment of women is the manner of enhancement of the social, economic, cultural, and political standing of women, the conventionally disadvantaged, neglected ones, in society (F. Hasin, 2018). Women's empowerment is a multifaceted concept that encompasses a wide range of issues related to gender equality, women's rights, and social justice. Empowering women has numerous positive outcomes for women, their families, and their societies as a whole. Studies have shown that when women are empowered they have better access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, which leads to increased economic growth and poverty reduction (Reshi & T, 2022). Especially now that there are lots of women taking on roles in the economy, one example is being a labor worker. Where most of the labor workers are dominated by women. This also shows how important it is that the idea of women's empowerment is voiced and intensified so that every woman who takes part in the economic sector also has much higher quality capabilities and workforce.

Empowerment of women is not only imperative but also crucial for the all-round development of society and the nation as a whole. However, women's empowerment can be categorized into five main parts (Mandal, 2013).

(1) **Social Empowerment**: This empowerment refers to the enabling force that strengthens women's social relations and their position in social structures. Social empowerment is defined as "a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives."

(2) **Educational Empowerment**: According to The Kurukshetra (2012), this empowerment is a traditional concept that recognizes higher

education as an instrument of personal development. It helps in growing an individual's intellectual horizons, well-being, and potential for empowerment.

(3) **Economic Empowerment**: According to Biswas (2017), through employment women earn money and it enables women and girls to become 'bread earners', contributing members of households with a strong sense of economic independence.

(4) **Political Empowerment**: Participation of women in the political field and various decision-making bodies is an important tool for empowerment. In other words, "Empowerment is not giving people power; people already have plenty of power, in the wealth of their knowledge and motivation, to do their jobs magnificently."

(5) **Psychological Empowerment**: Through psychological empowerment women not only transgress the traditional and patriarchal taboos and social obligations, but they also transform their selves and subjective.

To achieve success in empowerment, several approaches are needed. This approach is carried out so that this empowerment can be carried out evenly. The following types of approaches can be taken (Sultana & Mahbub, 2021).

(1) **Welfare Approach**: This approach considers women as the workforce and targets development. Women are beneficiaries but not active participants in development.

(2) **Efficiency Approach**: This approach considers women, essentially, not as beneficiaries of intervention, but as major resources in development.

(3) **Equity Approach**: This approach wants to promote women's status, power, and control so that they can be effectively equal to men. It seems women have equal rights.

(4) **Empowerment Approach**: Feminists seek to empower themselves through greater self-reliance. Women seek to influence their change and the right to determine their own choices in life.

(5) **Gender and Development Approach**: It recognizes the active involvement of women in development by utilizing the capacity of women at the optimum level. It can be achieved by planning and implementing the programs.

Empowerment of women is needed as an effort to increase and actualize their potential so that they are more able to be independent and work, alleviate them from limited education and skills, and oppression due to discriminatory treatment from various parties both in political, economic, socio-cultural, and law (Purnamawati & Utama, 2019). Therefore, a deeper introduction to women's empowerment is urgently needed, so that ordinary people can understand and know how to anticipate this.

A. **Challenges of Women's Empowerment**

Women's empowerment is something crucial and become a problem for people who still have traditional, and patriarchal thoughts, especially in some countries that believe that women are inferior to men. Women empowerment has become a movement that oppose the existence of stereotypes that have been formed in society which is hereditary from the ancestors and become a principle. Therefore, women empowerment often faces many challenges and rejections

from society, especially among people who adhere to traditional principles. Here are some of the challenges faced in women's empowerment (Sama, 2017):

(1) **Violence Against Women**: According to the report of the Crime Record Bureau of the Central Home Ministry, women are being victims of violence at a huge level day by day which is disrupting society. Women may face violence within the family (dowry-related harassment, death, marital rape, wife-battering, sexual abuse, deprivation of healthy food, female genital mutilation, etc) or outside the family (kidnapping, rape, murder, etc).

(2) **Gender Discrimination**: Gender discrimination affects women in the areas like nutrition, education, health, care, the decline of the female population, job public life, etc. This gender discrimination becomes a huge challenge for women because gender discrimination hinders women's space to grow up and reach gender equality.

(3) **Social Norm Change**: Change in irrelevant and orthodox social norms can be catalytic because women's empowerment requires the transformation of inequitable gender attitudes, behaviors, and harmful practices. The general mentality created in a child's mind is that the father works while the mother doesn't do anything—stays at home. It is also quite prevalent in our society that a daughter isn't supposed to do certain things because she's a girl or she's supposed to act a certain way because she's a girl, this frame of mind has to be changed (Tembre, 2018).

Reflecting on these problems, it can be seen that many things must be considered and endeavored. This doesn't only apply to the government but also

applies to fellow women. As fellow women, we must be able to support each other or the term *'women support women.'* If fellow women do not support each other in this matter, it will be so much more difficult for women's empowerment to be carried out.

B. Principles of Women Empowerment

Women's empowerment has the goal to achieve equality and justice for women. Where women have the right to choose and decide their own lives, develop themselves, and be treated properly without any distinction, restriction, or discrimination. The following principles empower women in society. According to the UN (2018), these are the principles of women's empowerment:

(1) **Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality.** This principle point is more focused on gender equality policies, which is this principle is to serve as a guideline that corporates and companies can use to form their internal corporate policies, involving gender-based policies. The point is this principle is seeking gender equality and human rights.

(2) **The equal treatment of women and men at work—the respect and support of human rights non-discrimination effort**. Principle 2 is about the equal and fair treatment of women and men by fostering an inclusive workplace culture that promotes equal pay and remuneration, including benefits and bonuses, for work of equal and ensures at a minimum a living wage for all employees (UN Women, 2021).

(3) **Guarantee the health, safety, and well-being of workers**. Principle 3 is about the guarantee of the health, safety, and well-being of workers

regardless of gender. Where this principle not only demands health insurance but also safety for every woman working in the form of protection from physical abuse and preventing sexual harassment (BOI Research Service, 2018).

(4) **Promote the education and facilitation of professional development for women**. The fourth principle of the empowerment of women is focusing on providing the proper education and proper facilitation of professional development for women. The professional development of the mother has a great influence on children that already are responsible for household tasks. Educating women is an important strategy against poverty; once these women have easier access to capital and the job market, they are more economically empowered.

(5) **Support the entrepreneurship of women and promote empowerment policies**. The fifth principle of the empowerment of women touches on the possibilities which employers possess, from contributing to the eradication of poverty through purchasing decisions that better the distribution of income and/or increase the income of people in severely vulnerable situations (Mauro et al., 2019).

(6) **Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy.** The aims of gender-responsive procurement should be to standardize and consolidate application processes, limit the scope of contracts, pay suppliers promptly, and provide feedback for improvement. Consideration should also be given to promoting women's entrepreneurship development, buying from gender-responsive

enterprises to encourage decent work, and applying a gender perspective to procurement ecosystems such as governance and political economies (International Labour Organization, 2020).

(7) **Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality**. USAID (US Agency for International Development) promotes a non-discriminatory, inclusive, and integrated development approach that ensures that all people, including those who face discrimination and thus might have limited access to a country's benefits, legal protections, or social participation are fully included and can actively participate in, and benefit from, development processes and activities. This could advance gender equality and women's empowerment to address different sets of development challenges appropriately and effectively at the country, project, or activity level in the process of designing and implementing investments (USAID, 2020).

2.3 Studies on Earlier Works

To support the short story that the writer made, here are some of the works that the writer uses as a model, inspiration, and guideline.

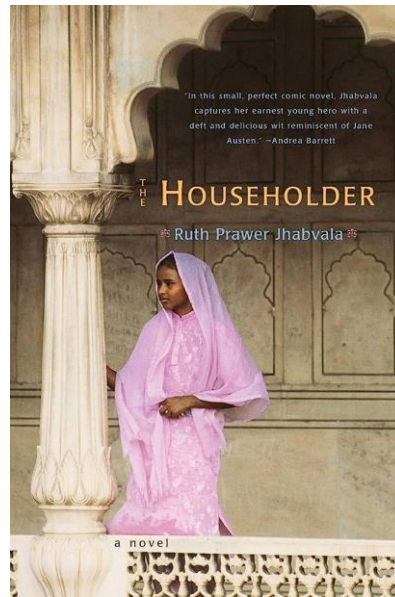## A. The Householder – Written by Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

Figure 2.2: The cover book of 'The Householder'

The Householder is a book written by Ruth Prawer Jhabvala and first published in 1960. This is one of the creative writings that explain the issue of gender inequality and women's empowerment in India. This story tells a story about Prem—a young teacher at a second-rate college—who realize that he is not particularly good at his job and that his salary is barely sufficient to keep himself and his new wife—who is already pregnant. The point is Prem is finding a difficulty to be responsible for his small family. From this story, it shows how important it is to provide opportunities for women to gain more adequate knowledge so that women can have the opportunity to work and possibly help their husband's economy.

B. A House Without Windows - Written by Nadia Hashimi
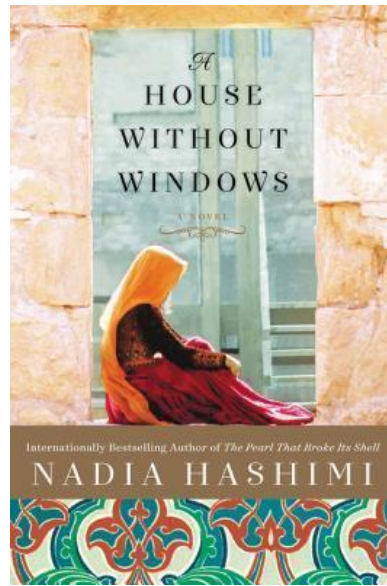

Figure 2.3: The cover book of 'A House Without Windows

A House Without Windows is a book written by Nadia Hashimi. The writer is trying to examine the precariousness of living as a woman in Afghanistan, and how events beyond one's control can shape and redefine one's life in terrifying ways. This story tells a story about Zeba who married an abusive man and sadly ended up by Zeba found out that her husband was found brutally murdered with a hatchet in the courtyard of their home. Her suffering isn't ending up yet because she has to be arrested and jailed— because her husband's family suspected that Zeba killed her husband. This story is focused on justice for women and shouldn't be hindered by gender.

C. Indian Sweet and Spices – Netflix

Figure 2.4: The cover movie of 'Indian Sweet and Spices'

Indian Sweet and Spices was released in 2021. This movie shows 'ethnic' communities that often follow a certain pattern and this story shows the Indian communities. This movie tells about gender equality, where a woman should be able to have the right to defend and voice their rights. This shouldn't be something to be called a disgrace, because here they are fighting for their lives. The essence of this film is that all women have the right to fight for and have their rights.

D. Doctor. Cha – Netflix

Figure 2.5: The cover movie of 'Doctor Cha'

Doctor Cha is a Korean drama that was released in 2023. This K-drama is tell a story about Cha Jeong Suk who is married to Seo In Ho—but their marriage happens because Cha Jeong Suk was pregnant with Seo In Ho. Cha Jeong Suk is actually a smart medical student, but she become a full-time housewife for the past 20 years, after giving up her career as a doctor during her medical resident years and she finally decides to fight for herself—since her family couldn't respect her anymore. From Doctor Cha, we can learn that we should fight for ourselves and also prioritize ourselves before we decide to get married.