

Contribution of Muslim Women in Writing Field: A Survey Based on the Noorul Ain Najmul Husain Works

M.N.F. Farhana¹, M.N.P. Rifasha², P.M.A. Aleeshan³, Mohamed Haniffa Mohamed Nairoos^{4*}

^(1, 2 & 3) Department of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Islamic Studies & Arabic Language, SEUSL

⁽⁴⁾ Senior Lecturer, Department of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Islamic Studies & Arabic Language, SEUSL.

*Corresponding Author

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Abstract: - In the 21st century, the media is an instrument of vigilance. Historically, women's contribution to the media has been marginal. In the 21st century, women's contributions in the media industry began to increase after various struggles. As a result women are participating in various media activities. And although women have contributed massively to the success of modern media, men's contribution to the media industry is greater than that of women. Moreover, many studies show that the contribution of women has not reached a significant level compared to the contribution of men. Nevertheless, the contributions of women can be particularly observed in the media industry in Sri Lanka. In this background, Kalapusanam Nurul Ain Najmul Husain is seen as one of the Muslim women writers in Sri Lanka not only in the field of poetry, but can also her contribution be seen in various fields like novels, short stories, magazines and newspapers. In this way, this research is a review with the main objective to identify the writing personalities of Kalapusanam Nurul Ain Najmul Husain. And, the study is qualitative and secondary data were used to achieve the task. Particularly the data has been reviewed through books, magazines, journals, internet articles, videos and presented through the narrative method. The study reveals that the personality is a famous writer in various fields such as newspapers, articles, magazines, poetry and short stories. Therefore, we hope that our study will identify the literary contribution of Kalapusanam Nurul Ain Najmul (Husain) and by reading such literary contribution, Muslim women in Sri Lanka will inspire future generations to follow the knowledge of the literary field.

Key Words: Contribution, Muslim Women, Literature, Noorul Ain Najmul Husain, Writing Field

I. Introduction

It is observable that before 1970 AD, the contribution of men more than women in the fields of literature and media. However, after the 1970s, women also started contributing to the media sector. (SanbrangE 2014). Particularly, the contributions of Muslim men and women in the field of writing are more visible in Sri Lanka today. Similarly, there are many female personalities in the field of writing. After the 1970s, women began to contribute to the television media amid major social barriers (Sanbrang, E. 2014). However, in the latter part of the twentieth century, women around the world were able to gain legal and equal rights due to their efforts to expand their access to and protect their rights in social institutions. Thus, the barriers for women in getting opportunities in the media were removed. As a result, the rate of participation of women in the media and writing fields began to increase. They also made progress in creating and operating their own media (Sanbrang, E. 2014). For example, the legacy of women's media was carried forward in America's Ms Magazine. Similarly, in India, the media 'Manushi Feminism Magazine' is Asian; the regions also set up avenues for women to participate in the media (Sanbrang, E. 2014). Suda in 2017 mentions those women's skills; patience and perseverance are responsible for such achievements beyond male-female discrimination.

The Muslim World Diaspora communities worldwide have an incredibly rich literary history, including the majority of Muslim countries spanning Asia, the Middle East, and Africa (Global News, 2019). More and more women from the Asian region began to enter the field of literature. For example, the "Manushi Feminist Magazine" in India paved the way for women's participation in the media in Asian regions (Zanbrangi 2014). Persian was not only the language of intellectual and artistic life in Muslim South Asia but also the official language of government and administration (Muslim Literature in South Asia, Ali Azani, 2006). For centuries, the total volume of Persian literature produced in South Asia was greater than that in Iran and poetry in Persian was the dominant and most popular form of literary composition. Poets in medieval India used all major Persian forms (Muslim Literature in South Asia Ali Azani, 2006).

Apart from the growth of the media, the education of women has created a platform for them to contribute to the media and writing sector (Global Tamil News, 2018). It can also be recognized that the number of women participating in it is less. However, it can be noted that the contribution of women in the media industry internationally is significant.

Similarly, the contributions of women in various fields can be observed in the media sector in India. Especially when observing its historical development, the situation where women were only defined as actresses in the cinema industry has changed and women

are contributing in many fields such as director, cinematographer, and producer. Such contributions are said to have broken the patriarchal conditions prevailing in society and women have faced various kinds of struggles in such contributions. They have overcome many obstacles, especially family obstacles, marriage obstacles and administrative obstacles (The Hindu, 2017).

Despite many challenges, some women writers in the world can be seen engaging in literary endeavors such as journalism, magazine, books and more. Among them Naima B. Robert in 2006, she published "From the Lips of My Sisters," a collection of stories from her sisters in Islam. And in 2007, she founded Sisters Magazine, an international print publication for Muslim women. While literature is seen as a subset of media, not all media are literature. However, there are differences between media and literature. However, literature is written work. They reveal the writer's skill with language. However, media is also seen as a means of disseminating information to a wider audience.

In Sri Lanka before 1980 Muslim contributions to the field of writing were minimal. However after 1980, the contributions of Muslims in the field of writing began to increase. Furkhan B Iftikhar, Maimuna Zainul Abdeen, Naima Siddique are particularly notable and also contributed to articles, poetry, short story, magazine, book publications etc. However, studies on them are not identified as scientific studies in Sri Lanka but, identified as dissertations, journals, and serials. Also Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain published a book in Sri Lanka titled "Shining Stars"(MINNUM THARAKAIKAL) in Tamil. It gives us details of more than 137 Muslim women writers. And such a book is seen as a research book about Muslim women writers in Sri Lanka. Therefore, Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain, who compiles the details of Muslim writers in Sri Lanka and makes their contributions known to the world. She is a special writer who can be talked about every day in Sri Lanka. Therefore, no research has been done by university students focusing on the contribution of this multi-talented Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain. Therefore, our study becomes a face to address this and this study becomes important as it can stimulate the energy of future generations for writing.

Research Problem

The contributions of Muslim women to writing field in Sri Lanka are significant. In some international media, Muslim women are making their contributions on many platforms such as presenters, journalists, poets, producers, and announcers (Global Tamil News, 2018). However, women make such contributions in Sri Lanka as well. They are contributing in many fields like poetry, essay, short story, novel, and book publications. In Sri Lanka, Muslim women's literary contributions are increasing, but their personalities remain unrevealed. Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain is seen as one of the greatest Muslim women writers in Sri Lanka. Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain's literary contributions are seen not only in the field of media but also in various fields like poetry, essay, short story and novel. Most of the studies on Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain have appeared in serials, monographs and online publications. In that way, a fruitful research is much important to reveal her literary personality. Therefore, considering this as a research problem, this research is carried out in order to fill such research gap.

Objective of the Research

The main objective of the study is to find out the contributions of Sri Lankan Muslim woman writer Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain in writing field

II. Methodology

This qualitative study was carried out through secondary data such as research articles, books, journals, magazines, and internet publications related to the research topic and presented through the descriptive method.

III. Literature Review

The article titled "Mothers – Women Journalists and Their Status" (Jacqueline Park, 2006) discusses the involvement of women in journalism and their inequality in relation to women's rights to men in journalism worldwide. This article also sheds light on how their contributions are neglected, the denial of rights to women, and the problems they face.

"Literature of Sri Lankan Muslims in the Contemporary Environment" written by Muhammad Ramees in 2015 and the article reveals about the Sri Lankan Muslim literature and their contribution to Tamil literature in the contemporary environment. Moreover, the article helps to know their role in the development of modern Tamil literature.

A study conducted by (Sana Anjum et al., 2020) titled "Women's Participation in Electronic Media Industry" has identified the reason for the low participation of women in electronic media. Also, qualitative and secondary data were collected and all available information was organized and subjected to thematic analysis. Therefore, this research has found that patriarchy, social view on women and family factors influence women's non-participation in electronic media.

Another study by M.R. Amirthalingam Paunanti and D. Kalamani, 2015 entitled "An Evaluative Study of Penniya's Poetry - A Feminist Approach" has identified feminist symbols of female oppression and focused on women's emancipatory ideas in Penniya's

poetry. Narrative research methods and analytical research methods have been approached. At the end of the study, female slavery and its causes have been identified.

NoorulAin Najmul Hussain, published in 2018, "Shining Stars", (MINNUM THARAKAIKAL) a study of Sri Lankan Muslim writers, has detailed the contributions of Sri Lankan Muslim women in literature, journalism and media.

This study can without hesitation be cited as the literary harvest of Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain's long-term effort to provide comprehensive data on Muslim women writers in Sri Lanka. Noorul Ain's research book fulfills the desire of researchers and readers to know about the history of Muslim women's contributions to the field of writing in Sri Lanka and their individual literary efforts. In this book, she not only talks about the achievements of women writers but also talks about the challenges faced by those women writers to achieve them. Prof. M. S. M. Anas, the former head of the Department of Philosophy, Peradeniya University, who has contributed to this book, has mentioned.

Therefore, no scientific research about Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain has been done in Sri Lanka. However, information about her has appeared in Sri Lankan magazines, articles and websites. Also, information about has been given in the research book "MinnumTharakaigal" published by Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Husain.

IV. Results and Discussion

The contributions of Muslim women writers in Sri Lanka are influential in various fields. On the other hand, only certain writers are absorbed in articles, journals and magazines. No scientific studies have been conducted focusing on the literary contributions of Muslim women in Sri Lanka. Therefore, there is a need to conduct studies focusing on the contributions of Muslim women in the field of writing in the future. In order to fill the gaps in this review, Kalabhoosanam examines the contribution of Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain to the field of writing.

Kalabhoosanam Mrs Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain is a native of Ududeniya and her passion for writing came from her school days, i.e., when she was studying in her tenth standard. She noted that the literary path she travelled through was not a carpet one. Kalabhoosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain said that when she was in school, she used white paper from the inside of a cigarette box lying on the street to write notes because she had no money to buy books. During a phone conversation, she also mentioned the educational environment of her young period was not smooth.

She could only do her university courses only after her marriage. She completed her Certificate in journalism course at Open University in Colombo. She also, successfully completed Diploma in Journalism at the University of Colombo. She has also completed the Mass Media Communication at Distant Education Service. In addition, she has received special honours in Sinhala Higher Education in the Department of Official Language and has learned computer-related technologies.

Saying that marriage is not an hindrance to her education, instead it boosted her continue her studies successfully.

It is also important to note that the family also played an important role in the formation of the personality of Kalapuasanam Noorul Ain Najmul Husain. Her elder brother Rasheed M. Imthiyaz is not only a distinguished lawyer but also a great literary man. He writes short stories and poems for newspapers and radio. He has also participated in television programs. He has also written a book titled 'Sattatum Namum'. He also writes a column in Thinakaran Varamanjari and another brother late Moulavi Rasheed M. Razik was a great speaker, scholar and a writer. He passed away in 2013.

Another brother's name is Rasheed M. Fiyaz (Naleemi) and published a book about Ramadan. In Thinakaran news paper, he has written several Islamic research articles. He is currently working at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Qatar. Another brother Rasheed M. Riyal worked as the Muslim affairs coordinator of the Central Province Chief Minister. He also hosted a poetry program called "Vasanthavasal" in upcountry Service of SLBC.

Her brother Rasheed M. Hayeez contributed to the development of arts and literature at the Colombo Royal College. He has won first place in short story competition organized by the Sri Lanka Youth Service. Her only sister, Noorus Shifa Zahir is a teacher and author of many articles in English.

Her husband is also a writer. He is the president of Valampuri KavitaVattam (National Organization for Tamil Poets) and render platform for poets. He is has published three books of poetry 'Panithee', 'InivarumNatkaellam' and 'Najmul Hussain's Natchathirak Kavithaikal'. He is also going to release a collection of his short stories titled "Veraakaa Verkal" Apart from that, her only daughter Shafna Sirajudeen is a lawyer. She works as the Legal Officer of the Legal Aid Commission, Borella. She is also interested in the field of poetry and she has won gold medal in a poetry competition organized by the Hindu Maha Sabha Law College.

Despite being a lawyer, she also writes poems from time to time. She has recited poems on radio and television (MinimumDaragai, 2018) (Tunin Seven Weekly Magazines January 30).

Noorul Ain Najmul Husain interestingly engages herself in social services amidst her family responsibilities, which is another proof of her humanity. She was a member of the executive committee of Muslim Media Forum and Sri Lankan Journalists Association in the early days and currently, she is the Media Coordinator of the Young Women Muslim Association (YWMA). She also served as the vice president of the association. She is the Assistant Secretary of the Sri Lanka Muslim Artistes Front. (MinnumTharakaigal, 2018).

Kalabooshanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain, has also contributed in Sinhala as well. She published “Didulana Tharaka” – Shining Stars in 2021. She also worked as a special columnist for "Desathiya", a Sinhala Magazine published by the information Department for about 35 years. Her interview with political leaders for that magazine was very popular among the readers (Tamil Murasu, 2021). For this series of interviews, the Official Language Department honoured her with an award and a gold medal on the basis of "media contribution towards ethnic unity" (Mithiran Weekly, 2022). She worked as the Colombo District Information Officer of the Government Information Department and served in the Colombo District Secretariat for about ten years (Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain, 2018). In her tenure since 2007, she published a quarterly magazine in Sinhala language “Colombo Puwath” (Colombo News). Her magazine was applauded by the Minister and high officials of Ministry of Public Administration.

She has also translated three children books in sinhala, 'Mermaid', 'Pesum Pena' and 'Manthirakannadi' authored by the former Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Uduwai Thillai Nataraja (Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain, 2018). She has translated the Sinhala poems of many Sinhala poets into Tamil. She has also written a lot of articles in Sinhala for “Podujana” and “Thorathuru” magazines (Daily, Fortnight, Weekly Magazine, 2021).

Her "MinnumTharakaigal" has made a mark in history as the first research book written on Muslim women writers in the history of Sri Lankan literature. This historic book was published in November, 2018. The author Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain, wrote this historical book, "Minnum Tarakaigal" in the Tamil language. She published this research book under the name of "DidulanaTharaka" in Sinhala in 2021.

About 34 authors have been newly absorbed in this Sinhala book “Dithulana Taraka”. The book begins with the information of Maimuna Zainulabdeen, an 88-year-old veteran writer, and ends with the information of Sazna, an eight-year-old girl who published a book of poetry in English (Didulana Tharaka, 2021).

University professors, academicians and literary critics have praised this writer as these two books have brought Sri Lankan Muslim women writers to the international level (Kalabooshnam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain, 2018).

The woman who introduced herself in the literary world with the name Ms. Rasheed Noorul Ain is one of the most prominent women writers in the media industry. Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain entered the literary world in 1975 with the program 'PhoovumPottum' and 'MangaiyarManjari' which were broadcast on Sri Lankan Radio Tamil Service. She wrote under the pseudonyms Rasheed NoorulAin, UdudeniyaSelvi, Binth Salma, Kannoli. As a producer of MatharMajlis in the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation Muslim Service, she has written scripts and voiced in person for many years. She also occasionally participates in Radio Special Kaviarangamand TV programs.

From 1980 to 1990, worked as a journalist and sub editor at the Dinapathy - Chinthamani, well known Newspapers in Tamil. Ms.Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain has interviewed more than a hundred prominent literary figures. She has also written a series of weekly articles on topics such as the historical background of Sahaba women, and lessons from the Ayath (Quranic verses). She also worked as sub editor in Janani and edited the 'Arivaiyar Arangam' section of the magazine for many years.

Appointed as the Information Officer of the Government Information Department, She worked as the co-editor of the department's monthly magazine 'Thingal' and as the editor-in-chief of the magazine 'Putholi'. Subsequently, She served as the Information Officer of the Tamil section of the official news website of the Information Department. She worked as a advisor in a monthly women's magazine named “Oli Arasi” and wrote and produced many serials in this magazine (like "Literary Pearls" and "Star Housewives").

She is proud to be the only Muslim woman journalist who has been working continuously for the longest time in the history of the Sri Lankan media industry, having chosen journalism as her first career and set foot in that industry and is moving towards the golden jubilee in the journalism industry. Similarly, she is the only Muslim woman information officer who has served as a Muslim woman information officer in the government information department for about 20 years.

The first book published by Kalabooshanam Noorul ain Najmul Hussain was 'PanPaadum Penn'. This book was published on March, 1997. She published a poetry book 'Poonchendu'. Similarly, her research paper 'AIDS and Women' which was her submission for her diploma course in the University and her research paper 'Media Contribution of Sri Lankan Muslim Women' was presented at the Women's Forum of the World Islamic Tamil Literary Conference are also soon to be published. Thus Kalabooshanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain, who belongs to various fields of writing, her personalities and literary contributions are very much appreciated. Apart from that, she was interviewed on January 30, 2022 and explained her path she exceeded in this conversation.

The personality has received many awards and titles for her contributions to the field of literature and media. However, she had to face many challenges to come to this position. As a final point, Kalaboom Noorul Ain Najmul Hazain is seen as one of the most famous people in the field of writing in Sri Lanka. She has been working tirelessly for the writing industry ever since. Her contribution to the field of writing continues, she is assiduously working in the writing industry. Her works constantly appear in news papers, magazines and online publications. So such as a Muslim woman writer Kalaboosanam Noorul Ain is seen as a senior woman writer and a mentor for future generation. She is a person who can be talked about in centuries and through time

V. Conclusion

Kalaboosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain is a famous Muslim woman in the field of writing. It can be observed that her literary contributions have influenced various platforms in these studies. Not only that, it is another remarkable aspect that she has exposed her personality to the outside world in the face of various difficulties. And although knowledge and efficiency are found from her in this study of creativity, she has faced various hardships from the early days in order to remain in the field of writing and to achieve high positions in the field of writing. Similarly, the double burden of family and work responsibilities faced by women is a challenge for her writing life. Despite this, she has overcome such obstacles and achieved high achievements in various forms of writing personality. So the multi-faceted Kalaboosanam Noorul Ain Najmul Hussain is seen as a beacon and role model for future generations. Therefore, there is a need to carry out scientific studies on the contribution of Sri Lankan Muslim women to the field of writing in Sri Lanka. And there is a chance to increase interest in writing in future generations while conducting scientific research.

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