

The Representation of Medical women in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century

(First Author) Research Scholar: Nagaraju L. Professor, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Vedavathi Government First Grade College, Hiriyur. E-mail: nagarajal.2011@rediffmail.com

(Second Author) Research Guide: Dr. Manisha Yadav, OPJS University, Rajasthan.

Abstract:

The Paper on the representation of medical women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is expected to yield several significant outcomes. Firstly, it will provide a deeper understanding of the historical context in which medical women operated during this period. By examining the prevailing social, cultural, and historical factors, the paper will shed light on the attitudes, gender norms, and challenges faced by women pursuing careers in medicine. Furthermore, the paper is anticipated to identify common representation patterns in literature, media, and public discourse regarding medical women. This analysis will reveal the presence of stereotypes, narratives of empowerment or marginalization, and the portrayal of women as trailblazers or exceptions in the field of medicine. Additionally, the paper aims to uncover the gender biases, prejudices, and challenges encountered by medical women during the late 19th and early 20th century. By exploring the barriers they faced in their professional and personal lives, the paper will contribute to a better understanding of societal expectations placed upon women in medicine during that era.

Key words: Medical, Women, Representation, Significant, Psychiatric, Association, Colonial, Missionaries, Emancipation, Physician, Empowerment.

I. Introduction

The late 19th and 20th Century marked a significant period of change and progress for women in medicine. During this time, women faced numerous challenges and prejudices as they sought to establish themselves as medical professionals in a predominantly male dominated field. This paper aims to explore the representation of medical women in various aspects including literature, media and public discourse during this transformative era. One aspect of the paper focuses on analyzing literary works that depicted medical women. Novels, autobiographies and other written works provide Insights into how women in medicine were portrayed, both by male and female authors. This analysis seeks to uncover the prevailing attitudes and perceptions towards medical women in the literary world and how these depictions influenced societal views. Furthermore, the paper delves into media representation of medical women during this period. Newspaper articles, magazines and other forms of media played a crucial role in shaping public opinion. By examining media portrayed and stereotypes of medical women, this paper aims to understand the prevalent narratives and societal expectations placed on women in the medical profession.

II. Discussion

The Literature review reveals a diverse range of representations of medical women in the late 19th and early 20th century. While some works reinforced stereotypes and highlighted the challenges faced by women in the medical profession others celebrated their achievements and advocated for gender equality. The literature of the time reflects the evolving attitudes towards women in medicines and provides valuable insights into the struggles, triumphs and contribution of medical women during this transformative era. The routine, day to day practice of medicine much alone the types of domestic or marginal healing that are typically handled of women were simply not on the agenda of the descriptive at all during that period. In the

beginning, historians fold stories about how male doctors forced female midwives out of the delivery room. These stories were told in the form of a feminism morality story as a response to the characterization of midwives of obstetricians in the late 19th century and the early 20th century as being stupid, superstitious and hazardous.

These depictions, of course, teach us more about the politics of obstetrics at the start of 20th century than they do about the midwives who practiced in the early modern period. Since the 1970's, there has been a significant increase in the amount of research conducted on women, health, and healing;

Farkas, Carol-Ann (2011) in the latter part of the nineteenth century in Britain, a very small but substantial number of women waged a struggle for, and ultimately achieved, the right to study medicine along side males and to practice medicine alongside them. In 1859-1865, respectively, several women, such as Elizabeth Blackwell and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, were the first to break into the male-dominated field of British medicine. Building on the work that these women had done. Sophia Jex-Blake become a leader in the fight for women's rights to receive a medical education in Great-Britain.

Hirshbein, Laura (2004) psychiatrists who were female and who worked prior to the most recent few decades, one may argue that this was due to the fact that there were not many women working in the industry until quite recently. Despite the fact that is undeniably the case for women who hold positions of authority, these have been female psychiatrists practicing their field since the middle of the 19th century, and not simply as isolated outliers.

It is significant that women psychiatric patients have gotten a great deal of historical attention (1-4) yet a recent overview of the history of American psychiatrists, which is generally outstanding does not include women at all (5) when it comes to studying women historians

who have studied the field of women's history have utilized two distinct approaches. This is especially true in fields that have historically been dominated by a male perspective or by a male practitioner, one strategy is to hunt for women who may have been ignored in earlier stories, particularly those ones that depended on leaders in the field (who have often been male). This is the one way to take the problem. However, these are certain limitations to this strategy due to the fact that information on specific medical professionals is not always readily available. In addition, the position of women in the profession as a whole can not be well explained by concentrating just on the few women for whom there is available information(6). Another strategy is to make an effort to comprehend the connection that exists between powers and the evaluation of an organization through time(7) as well as the connections that exists between power and preconceived notions of gender(9-10). This great forces to power helps us go beyond statistics to understand the circumstance in which women of the past and present entered and practiced psychiatry. This is true for both historical and contemporary cases.

Janeand Theerman, Paul (2002) a prominent reform Journal from the time period published in New York City highlights the ability and deviation of the time generations of women medical students. At a time when early feminist agitation was taking place, when Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were living in a brownstone on West 45th Street, creating women's National Suffrage Association, and launching the feminist Journal Revolution, Frank Leslie's cover was unmistakably in tune with the spirit of the times. According to the slogan that appeared on the banner of Revolution pro, "Men their Rights and Nothing More – Women Their Rights and Nothing Less." The United States of America had more trained female physicians in 1870, according to the census, than the rest of the world had combined. The Vast majority of these individuals were medical Professionals who specialized in

homeopathy, eclectic or herbal medicine. These were only 137 female students enrolled in traditional medical schools, the majority of whom attended universities specifically designed for women.

Park Y. (2015) Beginning in the 17th Century and ahead, Joseon Society Started to witness medical Practitioners who were not embarrassed of looking for ways to make many. These practitioners functioned as agents and guided commercialization in the direction it went. But the presence of western missionaries and the authority of the colony slowed down the process of commercialization. As a method of establishing themselves in Korea in the shortest amount of time feasible, they both provided free medical treatment to locals. As a direct result of their actions, the Korean population did not develop into actively engaged customers. However, they did not possess the necessary ability to thwart the process of medicalization becoming available for profit. Charity became less of a focus for western missionaries and the colonial authorities alike. Viewpoints and symbols of girlhood through their use of the magazine.

Lippi, Donatella and Vannucci, Laura (2011). The History of women working in medicine and surgery can be traced back to ancient times, nevertheless, the path has often been fraught with challenges along the way. A recent discovery in the archives of the Biomedical library of the university of Florence allows us to shed light on this difficult path of professional growth. The manuscript in question is a part of the proceeding which is a publication of the women's rights movement, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 and the growing number of "baby boomer girls" who were graduating from college.

Byakina, V.P and Kachalova, V.G (2014). First St. Petersburg state medical university. Milestones on the Grand path. The start of women's Medical Education in Russia and the women's Medical Institute (18th – early 20th centuries) viewed in the context of current

sociocultural and historiographical situation. The authors offered the first detailed description of how women's higher medical education started in Russia. They are highly praised for discovering unique archival materials and putting them to scientific use.

Dinter, Sandra and Schafer-Althaus, Sarah (2003). The introduction to this volume charts the major historical and cultural transformations of medicine and mobility in nineteenth century Britain and the ways in which they interconnect. Sandra Dinter and Sarah Scafer-Althaus explore the professionalization, institutionalizing and commercialization of Medical practice and research in conjunction with the effort of the transport revolution on British national and colonial identity, class and gender. Registering the ambiguities, contradictions and (dis)continuities of these processes, they identify how medicine and mobility constituted, influenced and transformed each other. The authors subsequently survey current position and crossover in mobility studies and the medical humanities, demonstrating how theoretical and methodological paradigms of both fields potentially inform each other. After setting the scene, the introduction presents the three conceptual sections of the volume and summarizes the individual contributions.

Morgese, Glorgia and Lombardo, Giovanni (2017). The aim of this is to bring out the historiographical categorization and periodization of the studies on dreams between the late 19th and early 20th century. The study is divided into different stages: bibliographical research, we selected 315 studies written between 1872 and 1940 and published in PsycInfo, the database of the American Psychological Association.

Kulik, Flallna (2002). In the second half of the 19th century with a wave of emancipation women started to overcome discrimination and obtained access to the medical departments of Universities. The first woman to obtain doctor's diploma was the American, Dr. Elisabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) in 1851. In 1864 Switzerland was the first country in Europe to allow

women undertake medical studies. It was there that the first Polish women took place in 1900. In the 20's and 30's of the twentieth century, the number of female doctors increased by 15%. It was then that counter-feminism began in the medical profession. The process of turning the medical profession into a feminine occupation went on in spite of the counter-action which took place at that time. Nowadays it is predominantly a feminine occupation with over 50% of doctors in Poland being women.

III. CONCLUSION

The Paper on the representation of medical women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is expected to yield several significant outcomes. Firstly, it will provide a deeper understanding of the historical context in which medical women operated during this period. By examining the prevailing social, cultural, and historical factors, the paper will shed light on the attitudes, gender norms, and challenges faced by women pursuing careers in medicine. Furthermore, the paper is anticipated to identify common representation patterns in literature, media, and public discourse regarding medical women. This analysis will reveal the presence of stereotypes, narratives of empowerment or marginalization, and the portrayal of women as trailblazers or exceptions in the field of medicine. Additionally, the paper aims to uncover the gender biases, prejudices, and challenges encountered by medical women during the late 19th and early 20th century. By exploring the barriers they faced in their professional and personal lives, the paper will contribute to a better understanding of societal expectations placed upon women in medicine during that era.

Moreover, the paper is expected to recognize and highlight the accomplishments, contributions, and advancements made by medical women during this transformative period. By acknowledging the notable female physicians who made significant contributions to medicine and society, the study will underscore their resilience and talent despite the

obstacles they encountered. Furthermore, the paper intends to explore the role of feminist movements and women's organizations in advocating for gender equality in medicine. It will examine the efforts made to challenge norms improve opportunities for women in the medical profession, and pave the way for future generations for female physicians. In addition to historical impact the paper findings will also have implications for contemporary discussions on gender equality in medicine. The paper may inform current debates, policies and initiatives aimed at addressing gender disparities and promoting inclusivity within the medical profession. Ultimately through these expected outcomes the paper on the representation of medical women in the late 19th and early 20th century aims to contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the experiences, challenges, and achievements of women in medicine during this transformative period.

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