

# Women's Decision and Its Consequences Portrayed in Kavery Nambisan's 'On Wings of Butterflies'

P. Suresh and J. Revathy

**Abstract---** *Decision Making is a standout amongst the hugest fundamental abilities which can be gained just by having great information about the idea and great determining aptitudes. This could be absorbed just by means of understanding. It is an essential fundamental ability that one ought to have. Ladies get influenced by numerous components while taking a choice, for the most part in the essential circumstances of their life. In this article, it will talk about whether the life decisions of ladies depend on mental variables or not, If anyway, how they will be influenced by those mental elements? Does the choices that are taken by ladies, do they influence both their own and expert lives? Assuming this is the case, what can be the cure? The journey for the reactions of these inquiries is investigated from the life of women of the novel On Wings of Butterflies (2002) by the famous author Kavery Nambisan. Her books express the requirement for liberation, enlightenment and Decision Making of ladies; along these lines, her novel On Wings of Butterflies (2002) has been set in the dialogue to show signs of improvement comprehension of the proposed point "Women's choices and its results".*

**Keywords---** *Decision making, Psychoanalysis, Nightmares, Independent choices, mental traumas Wrong choices, psychosomatic knowledge, and crucial circumstances.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Fundamental abilities will be capacities for versatile and positive conduct empowering people to bargain successfully with the requests and preliminaries of regular day to day existence. There are set of human abilities that are constantly achieved by means of instructing or direct involvement in each and everybody's life, that are utilized to deal with issues and questions regularly unearthed in day by day life.

In the fundamental abilities 'Decision Making' emerges as the prominent aptitude according to WHO, which is recognized by 'Delphi Method'.

Decision Making is the manner of thinking of choosing a legitimate decision from the accessible alternatives. When attempting to settle on a decent choice a man must gauge the positives and negatives of every choice, and think about every one of the options. For viable Decision Making, a man must have the capacity to conjecture the result of every alternative. In light of every one of these terms, one ought to figure out which alternative is best for a specific circumstance.

In the present situation Decision Making is an essential ability which needs in numerous ladies, despite the fact that a lady is taught, she endures a ton in choosing things throughout her life. On occasion, even their past life injuries assume a crucial job in their Decision Making. Ladies being mentally torn in their oblivious state likewise endure the dread of disappointments on account of wrong choices and to confront its outcomes. Does a choice taken by a lady affect her own and expert life? Does a lady's mental feelings of dread and injuries of her oblivious personality influence her choices? Provided that this is true, how might she defeat it? The mission for the reactions of these inquiries is investigated in the novel On Wings of Butterflies (2002)

"Karen Harney prevailed and continued her pioneering efforts for women. She argued convincingly that women must be given the opportunity to find their own personal identities, to develop their abilities, and pursue careers if they choose." (Wood, E Samuel, Green-Wood, R Ellen, The World of Psychology, p.412)

As I told above women should be given opportunities to cope up in their life, but Women even though educated, lack of experience in decision making leads to drastic consequences. Women due to lack experience hurdle into their own conclusion of the future themselves and act according to that without estimating the future chaos of the decision. Here Evita (the protagonist of the novel On Wings of Butterflies) a twenty – year old young woman tries such a thing and ends up by totally bringing a war between men and women of the society. Evita is a child who gets affected by her mother's condition and the way she gets treated by the men. Her mother's past and her sufferings make Evita take big steps to bring change in the society.

"What can a few women like us do? She asked. 'We're nobodies.' 'We are somebody Maria and Evita'" (On Wings of Butterflies. P.6)

Evita is the daughter of a waitress Maria, but more than a waitress job she does something that pleases men and Maria who the prostitute in disguise of a waitress. Maria gets ditched by men in the name of love and later she understands their motive. Later she takes it as a profession for her survival, as she has to feed her six children. Of the six Evita is different and the most favourite of Maria. Evita plans for a mass political council which will be framed for women. It will be led by women; Maria thinks this as a crazy plan. But as Maria wants to bring her daughter's joy back, she agrees to be with her daughter in this plan, which she surely knows will bring chaos. Evita hates men, as she

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sees the sufferings her mother undergoes from the childhood. So she comes to the conclusion that all men are the same and their prior job is to hurt a woman. She also thinks that men in politics cannot do anything for the survival and the benefit of woman, so she plans to start the council, a woman's organization called WOW (woman or woman). She chooses and invites sixty-two women in the society who holds prestigious positions all over the country to join this council. The main aim of this council is to make the woman rule the country so that we can frame our own rule, that favours women rather than men.

Evita selects sixty-two women in the society and sends the letter inviting them for joining the organization. Women from various places visit Evita and get convinced of her plan. Few important women who join Evita's organization are Pushpaben (a psychologist and a social worker), Tara (DCP), Kirupa (Jewellery designer and wife of a politician Dinakar Kiran Kangal), Rani of Kantipur, Milar and many of them.

"Mama, do something, she would implore. 'Chase them away! Lock the door! Now, now, now!'" (On Wings of Butterflies. P.20)

Evita gets afraid and affects a lot of seeing the life of her mother. The men who visit her mother irritate her, she wants to throw those men out of her house, as she is a small child, and she pleads with her mom to do that. This makes her hate men to the core. From Evita's point of view, men use women, men oppress women, and men make the life of women miserable. One more person who makes her hate men lots is the pasture who for his share oppresses Maria.

"She listens to weekly sermons .....she hid the sorrows of her shame with creamy lipsticks, permed hair, perfumes, and smiles." (On Wings of Butterflies. P.17)

Maria uses to go for confession to church every weekend as a ritual. The father of the church will forgive Maria's sins for the offerings she takes; Maria listens to the sermons and attends the prayers with full fear and faith in the heart. But the state of living of Maria does not allow her to live the pure life. Again for her living, she has to take up the job she does. The pain of Maria's life is clearly portrayed in the above lines. This makes Evita take up the huge decision. But Evita does not know the reality and how far it can hurt people.

"Pushpaben was sturdily built, with a hardy..... guttural voice." (On Wings of Butterflies. P. 10)

Pushpaben is the lady who enjoys the life with freedom and equality. Hiten Chand (Husband of Pushpaben, who later changes his name to Hiten Pushpa Chand) the man who treats and respects his women equally. He even changes his name with his wife's name attached in it. Hiten supports his wife in all her deeds. They even start a movement that supports women development in Rajkot. As the political party is run by men they stand as a hurdle of all the development plans by Pushpaben for the oppressed women there so Pushpaben joins the event.

"For Tara, it started with boredom." (On Wings of Butterflies. P. 23)

Tara, the DCP who joins the council with a doubt on Evita's plan. Tara does not convince with Evita's ideas first,

but later joins the council and she stays in it until the end with the confusion as her friends do not like her joining the council. Her friend Chetan (another police officer), Geeky and Dr Manorama all mock her directly and indirectly for her decision of joining the council which is not going to lead her or bring any good for her career but will only affect her carrier. Tara's father who always longs for a male child, he thinks that only male child can achieve things and bring fame to the family when Tara's elder brother ends up in failure. Tara's father sturdy believes on Tara. Tara works hard for her position, she proves herself by becoming a police officer. But Tara feels herself alive and confident only when she is in her uniform. In her private life, she never feels lively. Tara joins this council for a change and out of curiosity

"Her visit to Delhi had given him sleepless nights.....women were the largest minority in the country. If they came together, they can swing votes in any election". (On Wings of Butterflies. P. 44)

Kripa Kangal owner of Swargalok jewellery shop, she is a jewellery designer. She is the wife of the leading politician Dinakar Kiran Kangal. Kripa is always a rebel from the childhood. Kripa hates her grandmother to the core. Who oppresses her in the entire situation and mocks at all her deeds. Kripa grows up in the way opposite to how her grandmother wants her to be. Kripa's grandmother stops her from doing what she wants. When Kripa wants to learn Bharatanatyam her grandmother mocks her by saying that it's shameful to dance on stage, but Kripa performs on stage and walks ways with prizes. Kripa goes to temple on the days which every woman is restricted to go to the temple, the god does not find it guilty but her grandmother did when she finds the maroon stains that look like nearly like poorly drawn India map on her frock. Both Kripa's grandmother and mother lashes out her for her deed.

"When Kripa said she would ..... before grinding the masala?" (On Wings of Butterflies. P.48)

Even though women are being educated, the choice of their life partner selection is not given to them and women play a vital role in suppressing other women. The above lines clearly portray the two scenarios. Kripa goes to stay in the hostel for her higher studies. When Kripa opts for higher studies her grandma opposes her by restricting her studies. Kripa's grandmother instead wants her to get married soon when Kripa insist that she will accept a man only after meeting the person. Her grandmother mocks at Kripa by saying the above lines. Kripa's grandmother says that no woman will be allowed to meet her life partner before marriage or will be allowed to choose their life partner. The life of the woman should be to obey the elders and accept the life partner chosen by them. No woman should think beyond that or expect anything more than that is her point of view. Kripa's grandmother portrays that by saying the above lines as an example of that.

Kripa enjoys her life in the hostel while studying because she is out of the reach of her grandmother. She loves the



enjoyment in the hostel, but it lasts only a few days, the days till someone informs about this at her home. This enrages her parents and favours her grandmother who stops her studies and marries her to a politician Dinakar Kiran Kangal.

“The authoritarian character of the traditional joint family entails decision-making powers concentrated, in the position of the eldest male members.” (Rao 1982)

As the above quote says even here Kripa's father decides Kripa's fate. Kripa's father portrays today's politicians, he is much fond of politics and politicians, when his daughter meets Sonia Gandhi once, and Kripa's father makes sure that his daughter will enter into the circular building one day. Thus he marries Kripa to a politician. Dinu is a very good politician who keeps his political life on the top but never bothers about Kripa as a person.

“Decisions made in home management range in importance from major once in a lifetime. .... but it is only in fairy tales that they live happily ever after.” (Knoll 1973)

Living a happy life in the arranged marriage is really a fairy tale which is very true in Kripa's life. As the quote portrays Dinu does not like Kripa does or decides anything on her own. She does not even have the right to choose a name for her child. Such a Kripa when enters a women's council it affects Dinu a lot. But Kripa wilfully decides joins the council.

Heera the woman who lives in the outhouse of Kripa with her family too joins the council. Her mother Panna brings them up by selling kerosene in the morning and herself at nights. Panna lashes her own son and chases him away when she catches him seeing her naked. Panna almost killed her own son when he approaches her with money. She later looks after her bedridden son till he dies and comes to live with her daughter later. Panna gets her daughter married to a dhobi Gopal. Gopal physically assaults Heera for a male child, as he was misguided so. But when Gopal continues to do the same Panna nearly chokes him to death which changes him as a good person. But he does not know the weapon used by Panna till now.

“This feather – light, cotton – candy approach will not do’..... ‘A secret group called WOMB. The World of Male Bashers. Very feminine, no?’” (On Wings of Butterflies. P.92)

Lividia king (her real name is Lydia) is the head of this brutal organization called Womb (The World of Male Bashers). Lividia gets this cold blood hatred for men because of her husband Dr King. Lividia marries forty-year-old Dr King at the age of seventeen. Dr King marries her by giving a handsome amount of money to her parents. Lividia's husband who marries her for her smile decides to divorce Lividia saying that her laughs threaten him at nights and it causes health issues in him. But the reality is that he cannot misbehave with his nurses in Lividia's presence, as he is always fond of young ladies. He finds reasons to get rid of Lividia from his life. Lividia cannot prove her husband's wicked deeds in front of the law. This incident builds hatred in the heart of Lividia on the whole men of the society.

Lividia starts this organization, which brutally assaults men for the trouble they cause for women. The organization

helps and educates women for their survival and teaches to fight back for their self - defence. This organization even punishes men who to women misbehave in public. Lividia is fond of Evita and her idea, but instead of joining WOW, she invites Evita to join WOMB to teach men a better lesson.

TLS (Trilogasundari) a genuine woman who enters a political party to really serve people. As the men feel her genuine they do not let it happen. As she gets fame between the people, the man – filled political party gets alarmed and gets TLS Married to a party man. Later suppresses her from party deeds. TLS when understands the real motive of the marriage moves out of her husband and party and stands out serve the people. When she loses election she takes up writing as a weapon to enlighten people with the prevailing problems the women face in the society.

“You have a battle with men; I don't..... every man is happier and more complete when he sees a woman for what she is. No battles.” (On Wings of Butterflies. P.107)

TLS decides not to join the WOW even though she admires Evita for her approach. TLS explains that her fight is not with the men but the society. TLS says that her aim is not to raise women equal to men instead to demolish the word sex. She wants to see the world where men do not see women as a commodity or as a product of glamour and beauty; instead, women should be treated as a human being. TLS does her research for that; she believes that all her writings will lead her to the state she expects one day.

Naveena Tandon is a beauty icon who spends most of her time to maintain her beauty. She extends her hand in joining WOW for the reason of fame. Rani of Kantipur joins the organization to get her revenge on the Raja who sends her out of the land.

“No,' said Milar. ‘Yes,' said the gentleman warden..... She punched the warden in the face with the strength developed from the PT lessons he had given her.” (On Wings of Butterflies. P.114)

Another important person who supports Evita and advises her at times is Milar. Milar is the person known to Evita from her childhood, similarly holds a small innerwear business which she learns to make from her husband Bob. Milar is an orphan who lives in an orphanage, where there will not be an encouragement for talents or shrewd children. The lady who comes for inspect does not like Milar as she is talented, so she finds the reason to bash out her. The warden promises the in charge lady that he will take care of Milar. He takes good care of Milar. He provides Milar with good food, iron her clothes and even helps her to tie her hair neatly. The special treatment for Milar is not on good terms. Milar finds the intention of Warden and bashes him with the defence lessons taught by the warden in the PT lessons and leaves the orphanage once and for all.

An old couple adopts Milar as own and looks after her. Milar starts selling candles for her living. Bob sees Milar and marries her for her beauty. But Milar has a rare health issue. Whenever she spends hours with Bob she bleeds to death which leads her to spend more than a week in the hospital.



Milar has a craze for books especially History books. Bob use to bring Milar books whenever he comes to visit Milar. Soon she maintains her personal library which was said to be the biggest library in their town.

"Dreams are all forms of "wish fulfilment" — attempts by the unconscious to resolve a conflict of some sort, whether something recent or something from the recesses of the past. ....in the preconscious will not allow it to pass unaltered into the conscious." (Freud, Sigmund The Interpretation of Dreams the Illustrated Edition, p.09)

As said above the dreams becomes the gateway for the unfulfilled wishes of the human being, Evita to dreams of weeping Mother Mary once, who is none but her own mother who suffers, later she dreams of Mother WOW i.e. the dream does not reveal any direct clues but reveals it as a riddle. Thus the dreams are truly the unfulfilled dreams or the desires of the untold wishes. Evita's dream is one of the apt examples for this. People once get confused will undergo this sort of dreams. So Evita decides to meet Megadasi as per Milar's advice to get rid of her confusions.

"Her husband was devoted to her and after watching her gives birth to Subbu, he had become her admirer for life. He loved her, she was his beautiful, bone-thin ever –fertile wife." (The scent of pepper 97-98).

Nanji the protagonist of The Scent of Pepper is a simple young and weak woman but she showed her courage and power when she has to look after her family. Even her husband believed her totally and started respecting her when sees Nanji's willpower in giving birth to her child herself. Like Nanji Megadasi is also one of the strong women who guide and looks after her family. Megha Dasi is the wife of the fisherman who has the ability to look into the future of people. She even finds out about the death of her husband and before people announces his death she sits there without her wedding chain. After giving her possession to her daughter – in – laws, she gives her gold chain to her daughter. She finds the future of her daughter, as she cannot reveal that on her wedding day. She leaves the town and settles in Vrindaban. Vrindaban is the place filled with different types of saints who fools people with various tricks.

"You have killed two children who were fearless of your stupid customs and pride." (On Wings of Butterflies. P.133)

Even though Megha Dasi really has the ability to see into future she never helps all the people who come to see her. She turns away people who come to see her. Dinu is also one of the people. She first refuses to see Evita but later allows her to stay with her. Later she promises Evita that she will come to see the Tamashas of the event which is going to happen and leaves. Later Megha Dasi leaves Vrindaban when her favourite Madhusudhanan (Son of a high-class family) and Radhika (daughter of a cowherd) dies for their love. The panchayat leaves Madhusudhanan with a warning and punishes Radhika by hanging her in the banyan tree which is in the centre of the village. The same night Madhusudhanan too hangs himself in the same place Radhika was hung. This enrages Megha Dasi; she curses the whole village and leaves Vrindaban forever. Megha Dasi reaches Howrah; there she searches for the daughter of her thunder stricken daughter. She finds her granddaughter Jyothika and lives with her.

"Later that evening, as Tara Prepared to leave, Aunt Foot said, ..... what do they plan to do with it?" (On Wings of Butterflies. P.151)

Aunt Foot (Seeta Foot), the sister of Tara's mother, who is one of the important inspirations for Tara to become a police officer. Whenever Tara gets confused, she visits Aunt Foot for her rescue. Here the commotion starts at various places. Kripa with the help of Heera and other women wins in the elections at various places. Following that, before the official WOW council meet commences, women all over the place stop doing their regular chores and starts to protest at various places. Tara who gets confuses with chides of Chetan and Geeky approaches her last source who brings her solace with her advice. Aunt Foot advises Tara to do her work without any guilt and ask her to understand the importance of living in harmony with the men.

Anita Myles in her work, Feminism and Postmodern Indian Women Novelists in India watches,

"The ideas of Carl Jung attracted some feminists. Jung believed that each person needs to incorporate certain aspects of the opposite sex into his or her personality, only then can he or she achieve wholeness." (Feminism and Post Modern Indian Women Novelists in English, P.4)

As stated above Aunt Foot insists the importance of living in harmony with men, she also states that women are always equal to men; the only thing that should change is the thinking. Aunt Foot also adds that women should stop protesting for rights as they already have them, instead they should understand that they are equal. Aunt Foot clearly states that every man is not complete without women and vice versa. Thus Aunt Foot advises Tara about the equal importance and responsibility of men and women in the society. Aunt Foot also adds on that the act of protesting and fight will not change anything until we change ourselves from inside. Later she questions Tara about what the women are going to with the so-called freedom they get. She also promises that she will surely come to the council meeting one day.

Most of the women all over the country join the council, one of the reporters, who is junior to Kripa too comes to the council meeting to record the events in her writing. She comes with her caretaker Mayil to meet Kripa for the first meet. Gustad one of her colleagues encourages her to record the events when her senior comes to know about the plan. He sacks her out of the office with the false accusation and frames her story into a new version and steals her story. It is Gustad and Mayil encourages her to go on with her work. Gustad then advises her not even to discuss her story with anyone, not even him. Because her story is hers and she should not let others own it and so the reporter to agrees to join the council meeting.

"Beauty isn't everything, said Kripa..... you cannot imagine a buck-toothed Christ, an ageing double chinned Saraswati or a squint-eyed god in any religion. (On Wings of Butterflies." P.82, 83)



Some of the college girls for their fame and to show off their ruggedness join the WOW. Such a set of girls are Karola and her friends, a group of girls who calls themselves 'Nice girls'. Kripa comes to know that those girls are the classmates of her son Santu (Santosh Kangal). Karola a half-German girl is called a Karela in her college for her appearance and colour. The attitude and reaction of the boys over her complexion create anger in her which later changes into aversion. This makes them do extreme violence at their college level. Karola goes the extreme of getting pregnant to marry a guy. When Kripa advises that beauty is not everything, she explains that world sees everything with the eye of beauty and people love everything to be young and beautiful, that is why even the god's statue created by men is always beautiful, we cannot see any God's statue ugly or old because the perception of people about beauty is so. The reality of the world's perception of beauty is simply portrayed here.

The struggle starts with a council which represents the demands of women which portrays their equality. Like equal postings for women in the entire job, equal maternity leave for both men and women, salary for housewives and so on. But the council before it starts brings in various problems, which later bursts out into war. The strike by the women first considered as a threatening then burst out into a war between men and women. Megha Dasi senses it before and tries to warn them but no one listens to her. This war between the men and women gets worst when Lividia (the head of WOMB) involves in the council meeting when the male opponent (political people) enters for a meeting. This makes the situation worse. It even gets worse when Evita and Dinu get kidnapped by both the parties.

On the other hand, the Raja of Kantipur brings his youth members opposing the women council. The youth members abuse the women most badly. This creates more chaos in society.

"Marriage, with all its complex, complicated, dizzying ingredients remains my number one comfort zone." (Spouse XVI).

As Shobha De, a celebrity writer, devoted wife and mother of six, about her experience of married life says in the Introduction to her work, Spouse: The Truth about Marriages, Aunt Foot and Milar also tries to bring out the fact of the reality of nature which no person is ready to hear or accept. It totally brings a mass destruction. Later the children future generation interferes inside the war and sorts out the problem. The children with the help of Hiten and Mayil, Santa, Wilma and few other children presides over the children army and releases Evita and Dinu.

"Jung calls these qualities in Man and His Symbols, "anima and animus"; and conveys that the anima is a personification of all feminine psychological tendencies in a man's psyche." (Man and His Symbols, P.186)

According to Jung, Animus is the polar opposite, it is the exemplification of all manly mental inclinations in a woman's mind. Both anima and animus have positive and negative sides. The positive side of anima and enmity adds to the shared comprehension of man and lady and furthermore to their peaceful harmony. By proving the above quote real all the children formed a chain holding hands around the parliament in a pattern of one boy and one

girl; the pattern that portrays the importance of equality. After that, the panic comes to an end with a treaty and promises on both sides. All this chaos starts with the plan of a twenty-two-year-old girl's decision.

"Luce Irigaray states, "To remember that we must go on living and creating worlds is our task. But it can be accomplished only through the combined efforts of the two halves of the world: the masculine and the feminine.....We live here together." (An Ethics of Sexual Difference: 108).

As told above children brings out the importance of the harmonious living of men and women together as a human being. Proving the importance of the harmonious living the children bring the confusions of their elders to normal and goes back to their schools again. The journalist starts with the compilation of the events for her story. Tara does her work with more confidence than before. Milar completes her compilation of history by adding the current events which no one can reprint it. Evita the one who starts this whole chaos visits Aunt Foot every day to read out the pages from the compilations. When the decision is taken out of lack of experience and prior thinking of the consequences it will lead to chaos. It is portrayed clearly from Evita and her decision. Aunt Foot, Milar and the children decide and act wisely when other women do things out of their anger; they act wise and bring the situation under control.

## II. CONCLUSION

The women in the family get rewards for being obedient and get punished for not following rules. Especially in the houses where both female and male children exist, male children enjoy privileges and a female child will not get that privilege. She will get importance only if she reflects her mother on each move, if she thinks on her own she will be stamped as a problem child in the family Kripa gets affected in this way. On the other hand, Evita is the child who gets heat up by all her childhood experience and the state of her mother. The hate on the society drives her to seek the change which leads her to take a drastic step. Even though today's women are educated each and every decision of them is taken by their parents Tara suffers from this scenario. Lividia, on the other hand, gets affected psychologically which lead her to assault men to eradicate them totally from the society.

One or the other way all the women suffer psychologically to decide further in their life and all portray that in their immature decision of standing against men. The female child is brought up in such a way that even after marriage she seeks the help of her husband or others even to choose small things. Women should know that they are equal to men and they need not fight for the equality which already exists, they should understand that the only change should come from inside. When women understand this reality they will decide wisely. Women should decide from their childhood and be confident in their decisions so that they will not feel insecure or they will not suffer from any traumas in their life.



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