

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY
STUDIES

DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY
IN ANY TWO COMIC WORKS.

ASSIGNMENT PREPARED IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT ON THE COURSE
MODER COMEDY

BY

JUDE DESMOND

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NAME OF LECTURER

Mr. ODOH ONYEKA

**THE ISSUE OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN *THE WIVES REVOLT*
BY J.P. CLERK AND *OUR HUSBAND HAS GONE MAD AGAIN* BY OLA
ROTIMI**

In this discourse we are going to look at how gender is seen in the society that is how one gender is more preferably to the other ones.

Gender according to Oxford dictionary it defines it as the fact of being male or female especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences. In the society where people prefer one gender to the other thereby pushing to the other side of the world the other gender they considered inferior. Sexuality in the other side is the feeling and activities connected with the person's sexual desire. In this discourse we are going to see that there is gender that is seen as the ultimate to the other. There is a preferential treatment giving to the male gender in *The Wives' Revolt*. The women in the society are not seen as major part of the society and therefore not seen with much importance, to the fact, that the allocation coming to them from the oil company to the village that is divided into three, one going to the elders, one going to the men in their various age group and the least to the women. This also shows the place of women in the society that the men will get double of the allocation why the ladies will only get one part. This is seen in the words of Okoro: "one going to the elders of the town, the second to the men in their age groups and the third by no means to the women..." here the proclamation puts women at the least, showing that they are not even as major part of the society. Even when the women lament on the way the allocation is shared that it should be divided into two equal parts one to the men then the second to the women the men consider their claims not preposterous.

The women having been pushed to wall by the act of their husband and on the note of agitation they refused to do what their men are considered their civic responsibility by not sweeping the village square, market square etc there by allowing goats to roam about the village without being checked and littering the village. This also make the men to come up more drastic measure even to the extent of accusing the women indulge in unpatriotic practise, that some even assume the power of witchcraft the insidious form and shapes of goat terrorizing the honest one and all these made the men to place a ban on the rearing of goat in the village. This caused uproar in the village because rearing of goat is one of the only sources of income to the women and the little money they get from the “oil money” allocation coming to the women while the men will just use theirs in drinking. So placing a ban on the rearing of goat is like adding insult to the injury because the women are still fighting for the way the allocation should be shared equally they are now trying to close their source of income. They banned the rearing of goat by laying all sort of accusation that it is going to cause havoc if the leave the goats in the village. In the other hand the men have also failed to realize that it is not only goat that roams around the village unchecked that even the men’s pigs move about unmolested. “...all you want to do is to get on top of us women. There you have your pigs all prowling all over the place ... if movement of animals should be on all the whole animals that move around. They should shouldn’t protect one and expel other out of the town” . Here one may say that the banning of the goat is just to wick the women, to suppress them the more. In local setting it is said that the men are the head of the family and also at the same time the bread winner of the house and seeing that some women are now more industrious than their husband and the men think that their wives will no longer be submissive to them, some time they will obstruct the business of their wives.

The last proclamation of the decree is the last straw that breaks the camel's back even when they want to speak about the discriminating law their freedom of speech was denied them and there by passing a bad, unfair and discriminating law being direct against women because of their stand. The men see it that the only thing that should bother the women should be the affair of kitchen and the affair of the community should be left for the men.

All these subjugation by men made the women to take drastic action by leaving there husbands, their babies under the care of their husbands and all so the housekeeping is also left for the husbands. These actions make the men to know the importance of women in the society. The women left their village protesting and went to their enemy's territory, coming back to the village with unknown disease, this is what they get in return by pushing the women to the wall. Suppressing them, denying them their right and subjugating them.

In *Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again* there is also a treat with disdain to the female part, here they are not given opportunity to think about, their feelings is not what matters, this is seen when Mama Rashida's first husband died she was married off to the younger brother of her husband without asking her opinion whether she likes the person in question. This shows how the female gender is seen. The female gender is also being taken advantage of Sikira is married to Lajoka not because he loves her but because he wants to use her to secure vote in other to achieve his political ambition that her case is "...her case is only for necessity, anyway- temporary measure..."

The women when they are married they are being caged to their household , they are not allowed to have any affair with any other man except their husband and their husband are allowed to have as many husband and concubine as many as they want. The men go about living all manner of life and their women is the opposite even the religion makes it unfavourable to them that even the type of

cloth the they wear will make them look like masquerade in terms keeping themselves for their husband and any slightest mistake that they make will incur a heavy consequences on them.