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- c- How women of colour experience double discrimination
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 - ii- Discrimination in Educational institutes:
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 - 1. Example from "Blue Eyes" by Tony Morrison
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Essay

Introduction:

Terms like "Mammy" and "Angry Black Women" clearly depicts how black women are treated in the society. Different waves of feminism came throughout the history, but none of them included the sufferings of black women. Coloured women have to face discrimination on the basis of gender and race as well. The term intersectionality was coined by "Kimberle Crenshaw" and it means that different factors like colour, race, religion, language and gender contribute to the discrimination of women. Gender disparity which white women face is quite different from the discrimination that coloured women face. They experience double discrimination at workplace,

educational institutes, hospitals, politics and even in film industry and there are examples from literature, sports and society that depicts the sufferings of coloured women. Despite, facing segregation the coloured women always showed resistance in the form of movements like Black feminism or Black Civil Rights Movements and speeches like "Ain't I a woman."

The term intersectionality is an important term in Black feminism and it was coined by "Kimberle Crenshaw". It means that sufferings and problems of different women are unique and all women do not face same discrimination and ill-treatment. This is due to the fact that different factors combine together and contribute to the discrimination.

These factors include gender, race, colour, religion and even language. This indicates that a woman of black or brown colour will face discrimination differently from a white coloured woman. Likewise, women belonging to another race or religion apart from the religion that white women follow, will face different kind of discrimination.

Women have been suffering from discrimination from very beginning on the basis of gender. Different kind of statements from scholars of the past depicts prejudice against women. One of such statement is "Women really is an imperfect man". However, the discrimination against women is not just limited to gender, but also to the race. Coloured women are treated differently from white women. Specifically, the women living in Africa is subjected to severe maltreatment, which is quite unfortunate. The sufferings of African woman is double than that of white coloured women.

The coloured women are not treated equally in the workplace or jobs. Their chances of getting jobs in prestigious offices is quite low. This is because of their colour. The employer often choose women that are fair and beautiful. On the other hand, black or coloured women are often considered as ugly. This is due to the stereotypes enforced by occidentals that all coloured people are barbaric, savage and ugly. Most of the people don't find them attractive. Therefore, most of the coloured women are often kept as

slaves or workers and due to this reason the word "mammy" is often associated with them. In some how coloured women are selected or hired as employees, they are treated differently. The wages they receive is less than that of a white women. Consequently, they don't have any lucrative career. Likewise, they are rarely promoted to higher positions in the job sector. White women is given preference over them. The phenomena of restricting women to lower position is known as glass ceiling. Similarly, they are ill treated by their colleagues as well. They are excluded from discussions and as a result, they feel alienated despite, surrounded by number of people. However, there are exceptions as well, because the society is advancing and people are breaking stereotypes. So nowadays the coloured women may not experience this kind of discrimination.

Coloured women not only face discrimination at workplace, but also at educational institutes. This stance can be elaborated using example from the past. In America 9 students, who were blacks were exempted from entering a school that was for white people. This was the level of discrimination from which even

children were not exempted. Those 9 children included male and females as well and they were regarded as Nine Little Rocks. It clearly indicates that coloured women don't have equal access to education. If a black women wanted to get admission in prestigious institutes at that time, it was met with resistance from the white. Even if they are admitted to university or college, they suffer discrimination at the hands of their fellows or colleagues. Most of the people hesitate to be friends with them, because of the stereotypes that all coloured people are ugly and bad. Even today, the coloured women are associated with negative stereotypes.

Likewise, this discrimination is not just limited to workplace or educational institutes, but also to the treatment which they receive at hospitals. This has been depicted beautifully and explicitly by an American author Toni Morrison in her novel "Blue Eyes". She explains in her novel that how Pecola's mother, who is a black women, is left to suffer in pain at the hospital just because she is a black women. Her

mother was pregnant and when she went to hospital for delivery she was called horse by the doctors because they feel that black women are like horses who give birth without any pain. As literature depicts the reality of the society, it can be said that this how women were treated at that time.

Similarly, there is little space for women to participate in politics and play key role in forming rules and framing legislations. Both white and black women suffer from this, but coloured women experience is double than that of white women. Very few coloured women are hired in the party by men. It is usually said that woman has no role in politics as politics is only for man. Men are of the view that women can't be good leaders as they are irrational, immature and emotional. If they are hired in the party, they are usually not given higher post in the party. Women are least considered candidates to which party ticket can be given in an election. It is due to the reason that most of the people believe that coloured women will not be able to gather enough votes. This discrimination is depicted

in the novel "Meatless Days" by Sarah Soleri in which women like Ifat was not allowed to participate in the political affairs. However, Ifat challenged the stereotype and broke the tradition by resisting against the discrimination.

Film industry is another area where coloured women face double discrimination on the basis of race and gender. In such industries white women is selected as compared to black so that viewers are attracted and rating will increase. This is the industry in which extremely severe form of discrimination takes place. Coloured women are often given side roles not main lead to grab the attention of the people. They are underrepresented in the industry. To have a main role in film or drama a coloured women is forced to use whitening injections. This is because white has been made the standard according to which heroines are hired. Insecure series in which Issa Rae was featured faced difficulty in promotion because the main lead was not fair.

Moreover, literature depicts the harsh truth of the society. There are novels by different authors which pinpointed the

discrimination faced by coloured women.

"Blue Eyes" by Toni Morrison shows the struggle of female i.e. Pecola who is a black little girl. She is often called ugly in her school because of black colour. In order to look beautiful she wishes of blue eyes and fair skin. This novel is classic example of discrimination on the basis of race and gender.

Even in the domain of sports coloured women are facing discrimination. In Paris Olympics, 2024 a women from Algeria named as Imane khelif was bullied by the world because of her physical appearance that resembles a man. Coloured women from Africa are often muscular and strong due to high level of testosterone in their body. Because of this reason she was bullied by the world and white opponent boxer called her a monster due to big and muscular body. This clearly show that how black or coloured women receives different treatment as compared to white women.

Likewise, coloured women are body shammed by the white men and even white women. They are considered as ugly by the Western world because of the curly hairs, dark complexion and muscular

body. If they are in a country dominated by white women and men, they are often viewed as alien and different from the rest of the women. Even in the country like Pakistan black or coloured women are regarded as coon or niggers, due to black colour.

Coloured women have shown resistance against the discrimination either in the form of speeches or in the form of movements. White feminist neglected the rights of coloured women so another feminist movement was started by them which is known as Black feminism. It was started in the New York and it talks about the oppression and sufferings of coloured women who are subjected to discrimination. Similarly, famous speech by Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Women" reflects the challenges and problems experienced by the coloured women across the globe. Similarly, Black Rights Movement was started in America due to ill treatment of black people in America. It talked about the rights of both man and women.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, it can be said

that experience of black or coloured women facing discrimination is quite different from the experience of white women who is subjected to oppression. They experience double discrimination on the basis of gender and race, as the phenomena of intersectionality comes into place. Coloured women are ill treated in various sectors and domains of life. They suffer disparity at workplaces, educational institutes, hospitals, political affairs, film industry, literature and even sports. The society also takes a jibe at coloured women because of their physical experience. However, coloured women have tried their best to resist their oppression in the form of movements like Black Feminism and Civil Rights Movement. Furthermore, Sojourner Truth's speech "Ain't I a Woman" is also crucial in terms of resistance by coloured women.