



Hierarchy of Women's Needs in Iranian Old Stories Based on Maslow's Pyramid

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Abstract

The aim of the current research was to investigate the hierarchy of women's needs in ancient Iranian stories based on Abraham Maslow's pyramid. The research universe included all ancient Iranian stories. The sample of the research embraced the stories of Kalileh and Demeneh, Marzbannameh, Bakhtiyarnameh, Sindbadnameh and Samak Ayar, based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs in women. The research method was descriptive and analytical. Library method was used to collect data and old Iranian stories and themes related to women's needs based on Abraham Maslow's pyramid were reviewed. Then the collected data was compared and psychologically analyzed, then finally a specific pattern of women's needs was drawn. The results showed that: the existence of different characters, including women's characters and different behaviors, provided the basis for the psychological analysis of the texts. Regarding to this, the psychological needs of women in ancient stories, including the stories of Kalila and Demaneh, Marzbannameh, Bakhtiyarnameh, Sindbadnameh and Samak Ayar, according to their motivation and the level of their inner satisfaction with life was categorized based on the Maslow's pyramid of basic needs (biological needs, need for safety, need for love and affiliation, need for self-esteem and need for self-actualization). Biological needs, which are at the base of Maslow's pyramid were reflected in some of the stories of Kalila and Demeneh, Marzbannameh and Sinbadnameh. Women's need for love, affiliation to others and safety" had been considered in the next levels of the pyramid. Also, in the stories of Kalila and Demeneh, Marzban Nameh and Samak Ayar, there were reflections of self-actualization. In other words, the needs of women in old stories can be categorized based on Abraham Maslow's pyramid of needs. According to Maslow, meeting the needs of each category provides the basis for the emergence of the needs of higher categories. Based on this, in order to flourish and be creative in women, the biological and safety needs must be met first.



Extended abstract

Introduction: The influence of the presence of women with different roles in the family and social environment, the types of conversation, behavior and decision-making by them was prepared the ground for the psychological analysis of the character of women in ancient stories. The most important advantage of studying folk tales is knowing the customs, principles and way of life of the period in which the story was written. The psychological analysis of women's "needs" in these stories was unprecedented so a new research should be concerned. In the sense that the current research, regardless to the views of the creators of the stories and the prevailing social conditions, is in accordance with the scientific theory and in a certain psychological framework, analyzed and examined the needs of women. One of the most important topics in psychology is the examination of human needs and the various categorization that have been presented. Abraham Maslow's theory has considerable validity. He believed that humans are born with common needs and based on this, the grounds for their motivation and growth are created. According to Maslow's theory the first need according to the hierarchy of Maslow's pyramid is the biological need. That is: food, clothing, housing, sleep, etc. The second is the needs to safety, which includes the need to be free from fear, provide for life, and not be deprived of basic needs. The third need is social needs, that is, love and affiliation to others, and the fourth need is respect for oneself and others. This respect is first of all for oneself, and then the value and dignity that is achieved by others for the individual. The fifth need is self-fulfillment and self-motivation, that is, flourishing all the hidden talents of a person; these talents could be whatever they could do. Concerning the above mentions the aim of the current research was to investigate the hierarchy of women's needs in ancient Iranian stories based on Abraham Maslow's pyramid.

Method: The research universe included all ancient Iranian stories. The sample of the research embraced the stories of Kalileh and Demeneh, Marzbannameh, Bakhtiyarnameh, Sindbadnameh and Samak Ayar, based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs in women. The research method was descriptive and analytical. Library method was used to collect data and old Iranian stories and themes related to women's needs based on Abraham Maslow's pyramid were reviewed. Then the collected data was compared and psychologically analyzed, then finally a specific pattern of women's needs was drawn.

Results: The results showed that: the existence of different characters, including women's characters and different behaviors, provided the basis for the psychological analysis of the texts. Regarding to this, the psychological needs of women in ancient stories, including the stories of Kalila and Demaneh, Marzbannameh, Bakhtiyarnameh, Sindbadnameh and Samak Ayar, according to their motivation and the level of their inner satisfaction with life was categorized based on the Maslow's pyramid of basic needs (biological needs, need for safety, need for love and affiliation, need for self-esteem and need for self-actualization). Biological needs, which are at the base of Maslow's pyramid were reflected in some of the stories of Kalila and Demeneh, Marzbannameh and Sinbadnameh. Women's need for love, affiliation to others and safety" had been considered in the next levels of the pyramid. Also, in the stories of Kalila and Demeneh, Marzban Nameh and Samak Ayar, there were reflections of self-actualization. In other words, the needs of women in old stories can be categorized based on Abraham Maslow's pyramid of needs. According to



Maslow, meeting the needs of each category provides the basis for the emergence of the needs of higher categories. Based on this, in order to flourish and be creative in women, the biological and safety needs must be met first.

Discussion and Conclusions: It can be concluded that the character of women in these stories is dynamic, changeable and influential, and according to the atmosphere and content of the stories, certain spiritual characteristics were attributed to women, which represented one or more of the basic needs of the pyramid. It is Maslow. Despite the presence of some behavioral abnormalities in some stories by women, which were caused by not meeting the needs of the lower category of the pyramid - physiological needs and safety needs - in some other stories of these books, women were self-fulfilling human beings with The ability to solve problems had been brought up, and with self-esteem, understanding of one's situation, the environment and others, they played a role in the family and social environment, following men and sometimes ahead of them. According to the fact that the need for safety was on the second floor of Maslow's pyramid, in the analysis of the stories of the mentioned books, it was concluded that women's need for safety, including mental and physical safety, casted a shadow over other needs and if there was no providing of security, women are deprived of meeting other needs such as love, self-fulfillment and self-esteem.

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