

THE ETHICAL AND SOCIETAL TAPESTRY IN ISABEL ALLENDE'S VIOLETA**Mrs. C. Sundaram¹**

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Abstract: This paper aims at providing the perspective values for today's generation regarding the moral principles which must be treated as important in society. It also reinforces the concept of how society plays a vital role in the life of an individual with reference to Isabel Allende's *Violeta*. It is the duty of every individual to wisely move through the stream of life by accepting the reality based on moral ethics. When we center our decisions around our likes, then it will lead to the outcast of our generation in one way or another. It is the foremost duty of each individual to lead life on the right path that is carefully woven. Ethical behavior is an important concept in society, which creates a good rapport between people. It makes people more stable and paves the way to live a harmonious life in society. As the future of the world rests on the shoulders of the next generations, it is imperative that this ideology receive amplified support to facilitate a prosperous future.

Keywords: Ethics, Society, Portrays, Moral, Social work, etc.**Introduction:****The Ethical And Societal Tapestry in Isabel Allende's Violeta:**

"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle."

—Steve Jobs

As Jobs states, it is the primary concern of every individual to figure out their correct position in all the works they do. The only way for a person to succeed in his life is to get hold of the right path in their journey. One must have great passion for the work they choose to attain the goals they prefer. It is mandatory for a human to perceive a goal. Before setting up all these, a person should be aware of the dos and don'ts in it, which guide him through

the right path in society. Trust is earned through a clean record, which then leads to greater responsibility.

To answer the question “What is Ethics?”, it can be stated as the imbibed moral actions of a person. Rights, obligations, fairness, and virtues are some of the terms that represent the meaning of the term ethics.

Ethics mainly lends a hand in framing human behavior. It may vary from person to person, fixing a constant moral code, which helps a lot in improvising society. Being a person filled with high ethical values, one’s responsibility in society increases. Only then can he/she address the social issues.

As we witness ethics as a single term, it deals with great ideologies. Ethics may vary from individual to individual. Even there are ethics for technology. The researcher suggests that Violeta's ethical framework is not strictly orthodox; she occasionally departs from established moral norms but always operates within a framework of societal value. This is evident with the character called Julian Bravo in Violeta’s life. With the arrival of Bravo, Violeta didn’t think about her husband, her family members, or their values in society, which are highly valued by her. In Chapter 10, she stated that,

“I learned at age twenty-eight the surprising possibilities of pleasure and the fundamental difference between an uninspired husband and a lover who seemed to have stepped out of an erotic novel.” (Allende 118)

She was like a bird who really wanted to be out of the cage. The morality which she learned from her birth through her aunts, mom, and the Rivas family all exhausted in a fraction of a second. But when we deeply investigate the life of Violeta, it was so pathetic. As a girl in her early childhood, she was forced to be inside the house during and after the pandemic. Not only she but also the members of the fairer sex of her family were under restriction to go out of their house in the name of a pandemic curfew. But there was no such limitation for men in that house.

“Sadness and suffering haunt Violeta throughout her life. Her childhood innocence is robbed by a family tragedy, dousing her family into abject poverty.” (Mostafiz)

After her marriage with Fabian Schmidt Engler, a veterinarian, she felt that her life was not fruitful with him. She felt that she was like a rat for his research. She found no accomplishments.

“She is abused in the name of love, and suffers in the death of friends and family.” (Mostafiz) These experiences led her to betray her core values. Though she kept herself away from all the ethical actions she gained, she never failed to be a good citizen in society. She remained on track on the societal platform, where she didn’t fail to carry out her social democrat values.

She went along with Mr. & Mrs. Rivas to various places to educate economically weaker classes, and she started this at the age of thirteen.

“I spent the summer of my thirteenth year giving classes in the one-horse towns and abandoned outposts of the Rivas’ school route.” (Allende 67)

After knowing the real face of Julian Bravo, Violeta didn’t leave him for the sake of her daughter. To Julian, his daughter should cherish everything in the world, including under-dealing drugs. He voluntarily made his daughter have exposure to these unwanted adventures. Violeta believed that her next move in life should never change the lifestyle of her children. Though she was financially independent, she stayed with a rogue partner who refused to marry her even after having two children. Juan Martin, the son of Violeta, wanted her to leave Julian for her welfare. He stated that, *“For you to leave Dad for good.”* (Allende 148)

Nieves, the daughter of Violeta and Julian, lost her track in her journey of life. She took a wrong path and enlivened in it. Violeta tried her best to take her out of it, but she failed under the clutch of Julian. Nieves, from her side, never encouraged Violeta, but during her last days, she wanted to be with her mother without the knowledge of her father. Nieves revealed her pregnancy to Violeta, which was immediately accepted by her, so that she could at least now raise a child with optimal exposure.

“Are you going to ask me who the father of this baby is, mom?”
“It’s yours, that’s all that matters.” (Allende 202)

Though Nieves didn’t follow the principles her mother tried to teach her, she wanted her son to learn everything from her mother. She gave birth to an illegitimate son and died in the hands of her mother.

“Nieves had convulsions, lost consciousness, and fell into a coma. They performed a Cesarean section to remove the baby, but Nieves’ heart failed and she died minutes later. I am definitely sorry, Camilo.” (Allende 205)

Violeta raised Camilo under the fake father Mr. Roy Cooper, who actually readied himself to safeguard the child from the clutch of Julian Bravo for the sake of both mother and daughter. Violeta found Roy as her partner and, after his death, lived her remaining life with Harald Fiske till her own death. Though Violeta chose the direction of her life stream at times, society couldn’t accept such things, which is stated by Serena Jampel in her work as follows:

“Violeta is a sexual woman well into her old age, which is refreshing and empowering, but Allende’s liberalism can be contradictory and problematic.”

Another character who was under the roof of gossip is Miss Josephine Taylor, who was an Irish orphan. In her teenage years, she suffered from sexual harassment by an unethical British officer in the absence of his wife, who is a social worker. When his wife noticed the difference in his behavior, she uncovered the truth about Miss Taylor's sufferings. Later, she transferred Miss Taylor to her mother's house so that she could help Taylor come out of her sufferings and also avoid unwanted scandal about her family. Miss Taylor, with her new boss, traveled to different countries, but after the death of her boss, she had to take care of her life on her own. By a twist of fate, she came across an advertisement, which made her the governess of Violeta in South America. Though her life in Camellia was good and Jose Antonio had an immense crush on her, she was attracted to a person called Teresa Rivas. Teresa Rivas was a social worker who worked mainly for the welfare of the female community in society. She was imprisoned a number of times for the protests she was involved in. Even though she valued the significance of women, she failed to withhold the spirit to be followed by a woman. Against the morality of society, she acted as a lesbian. She had a relationship with Miss Josephine Taylor. Isabel Allende lucidly demonstrated the pathetic condition of society through her characters.

Violeta tried her best to represent the societal gaps which spanned a period of a century. She nailed it through the portrayal of her female characters who swam through the sea of disparity to witness the island of similarity. Allende cast back her personal life in her work *Violeta*. The teens of this century are merely stuck to a word—'stress'—unknowingly; its meaning was deliberately dealt with by Isabel Allende. Everyone must think once or twice before doing anything, because even a tiny mistake will turn life upside down. Family plays a vital role in this aspect, which is stated as follows:

"Family plays a notable role in molding the temperament of a person. It is the predominant place where a child gets its first education. It renders a primitive support for an individual in all aspects. It teaches the individual to value numerous things in society and helps them in believing several sensational aspects like class, races, gender, sexual variations, and also it escalates a person's personality in the progress of their life." (Sundaram and Mahalakshmi 15)

Allende's work can be considered as one of the best, portraying a life lesson for the people of the 20th century. Thus, it is to be understood that knowing and following ethical values is not an outdated concept. The teens of contemporary society must consider it a burning issue that is to be taken seriously by every individual to make the country more colorful like blooming buds without losing their scent.

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