

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE – 27**

**ARTS & CULTURE JOURNALISM – VI SEMESTER EJP**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2018**

**JN 6313 - Journalism - Arts & Culture**

**Time- 21/2 hrs Max Marks- 70**

**Instructions:**

1. **This paper has THREE SECTIONS and THREE printed pages.**
2. **This paper is for the VI Semester Journalism students who have opted for the Arts & Culture Elective.**
3. **You are allowed to use a dictionary.**
4. **You will lose marks for exceeding the suggested word-limits.**

**I. The following is an article by writer Chetan Bhagat. Read it and answer the questions below:**

**Home truths on career wives**

**Jul 29, 2012**

Recently, I saw the recently released movie, Cocktail. The plot revolves around a philanderer hero who has to make the tough choice between two hot women. The uber-modern movie was set in London. The characters drank, danced in nightclubs and had one-night stands with aplomb. They worked in new-age aspirational jobs like glamour photography, graphic art and software design. And yet, the guy eventually chooses the girl who cooks home food, dresses conservatively, wins his mother's approval and is happy to be the ideal Indian wife. In fact, even the rejected girl, a free-spirited, independent woman agrees to change herself. To get the guy, she is happy to cook and change her lifestyle to match that of the ideal Indian wife.
While the movie was fun, such depictions disturb me a little. When successful, strong women are portrayed as finding salvation in making dal and roti for their husbands, one wonders what kind of India we are presenting to our little girls.

Really, is that what a woman's life is all about — to make hot *phulkas* ? Of course, i shouldn't be so bothered, many would say. It is a Bollywood movie. The commercial pressure to present a palatable story is real. Above all, the makers have a right to tell the narrative they want.

Yet, when our most modern and forward cinema sinks into regressive territory, it is unfair to our women. It is also depressing because deep down we know such attitudes exist. Many Indian men, even the educated ones, have two distinct profiles of women — the girlfriend material and the wife material. One you party with, the other you take home. The prejudice against non-traditional women who assert themselves is strong.

Let us look at another part of the world. Yahoo, a leading tech firm and a Fortune 500 company, recently hired a new woman CEO, Marissa Mayer. What's more, she was six months pregnant when she was hired, a fact she did not hide in her interviews.

Marissa will take some time off after childbirth and will be back at work later. She can manage both. There is something to celebrate about that. Marissa is a role model for women and even men.

I'd like Indian men to have an open mind about choosing their life partners and revise their 'ideal woman' criteria. Having a traditional wife who cooks, cleans and is submissive might be nice. However, choosing a capable, independent and career-oriented woman can also bring enormous benefits. For instance, one, a man who marries a career woman gets a partner to discuss his own career with.

A working woman may be able to relate better to organizational issues than a housewife. A spouse who understands office politics and can give you good advice can be an asset. Two, a working woman diversifies the family income streams. In the era of expensive apartments and frequent lay-offs, a working spouse can help you afford a decent house and feel more secure about finances. Three, a working woman is better exposed to the world. She brings back knowledge and information that can be useful to the family.

Whether it's the latest deals or the best mutual fund to invest in, or even new holiday destinations, a working woman can add to the quality of life. Four, the children of a working woman learn to be more independent and will do better than mollycoddled children. Five, working women often find some fulfillment in their jobs, apart from home. Hence, they may have better life satisfaction, and feel less dependent on the man. This in turn can lead to more harmony. Of course, all these benefits accrue if men are able to keep their massive, fragile egos aside and see women as equals.

Sure, there are drawbacks also in being with working women. But the modern age that we are in, the *phulka* -making bride may come at a cost of missing out on other qualities. Please bear that in mind before you judge women based on their clothes, interest in the kitchen or the confidence in their voice.

My mother worked for 40 years. My wife is the COO at an international bank. It makes me proud. She doesn't make *phulkas* for me. We outsource that work to our help, and it doesn't really bother me. If my wife had spent her life in the kitchen, it would have bothered me more.

Please choose your partner carefully. Don't just tolerate, but accept and even celebrate our successful women. They take our homes ahead and our country forward. We may have less hot *phulkas*, but we will have a better nation.

**I.A Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in 150 - 200 words. (3x15=45)**

1. Write a response – an Open Letter to Chetan Bhagat regarding this piece.
2. How necessary or not is it to take a column like this seriously? What does this tell us about the differing perspectives of people with regard to working women?
3. The following are comments by people who were not too happy with the article –
4. ‘The society, including you, needs to stop telling individuals the "better life partner" for them but rather focus on the need for individuals to stop seeing marriage as a "samjhota" and women as "commodities".
5. I find this article insulting to the woman home maker, the article glorifies the working woman; while snubbing those who have sacrificed their career, ambitions & dreams nurturing a household.

Which of these comments do you agree with? Explain.

1. Write a short review of a film that you have enjoyed watching this semester.

**II. In 300 words, write about the strangest eating habit you have ever encountered. (1x20=20)**

**III. Which of your classmates’ Arts and Culture presentation did you find interesting? Why? Write in FIVE to SEVEN sentences. (1x5=5)**

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