TRANSCEndING VICTORIAN CULTURAL IMAGE OF THE ‘ANGEL
OF THE HOUSE’: JOURNEY TO SELF-ACCTUALISATION
IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT’S ROSE IN BLOOM

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ABSTRACT

Literature has empowered women through self introspection and self-learning encouraging women writers to take on the role of change catalysts in social change and asserting the individuality of women. Children’s literature in the nineteenth century served as a useful guide in regulating the lives of adolescent girls. The nineteenth century Victorian Era image of the ideal woman or wife was ‘the angel in the house’. Popularly known for her Little Women, Louisa May Alcott is the shining star of the nineteenth century girls’ literature when formal education was not a privilege for the women. The aim of this research paper is to highlight the journey to self actualization of the female protagonist Rose Campbell in ‘Rose in Bloom’, in a patriarchal society by mapping her growth and development through adolescence on Maslow’s Needs Hierarchy. This paper focuses on charity as the Victorian Christian image in American culture that enables Rose to self-empowerment and ultimate happiness while adhering to the social norms and codes of conduct.

KEYWORDS: Angel of the House, Girls’ Literature, Maslow’s Needs Hierarchy & Self-Actualization

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