

**“A FEMINIST READING AND SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF HENRICK IBSEN’S
‘A DOLL’S HOUSE’”**

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ABSTRACT

This paper of mine focuses on Henrik Ibsen’s rebuttal to the patriarchal construct, which had smothered the rights of women and their feminine essence down the ages. Nora the celebrated protagonist of “The Doll’s House” is symbolic of the feminine spirit and identity which was apparently smothered by male chauvinism. My paper unravels the social scenario in which Ibsen wrote his plays, where domesticity, subservience to one’s husband, child bearing and rearing was synonymous with women. My paper essays Nora’s transformation from a ‘doll wife’ to a conscious religious and social rebel. It captures her inner strength and elements of sustenance through the course of the play. I have also analyzed Ibsen’s use of symbols like the macaroons, the Christmas tree, the stove and the tarantula as representations of different aspects of Nora’s personality.

KEY WORDS: The key words in my paper are as follows: Feminism, Patriarchy, Male chauvinism.