

outer gentle woman but the real one, would always be there. I might be far away in some distant place, but she would appear at the right moment to save me, exactly how I did not know" (DI 156).

Saadawi's spirits were constructed on the words of her mother and Sadaawi has traversed up a tough journey up to where she is today by the energizing ambience of those words. Those words had deep impact on her. From then on Nawal says she could walk into danger with a brave heart. Had it not been for her mother she would have been trapped in a marriage at the age of ten. Saadawi remembered the sacrifices made by her mother. Her indebtedness towards her mother is evident when she says, "she gave me life and she has given me the revolution ever since I was a child. But a strange man married my grandmother before I was born, affixing his name upon my existence" (MWP 119). Speaking of Zaynab's yearning for education Saadawi says, "She wanted to read and write and change the world, but her day was spent in the kitchen, feeding her nine children and their father". She is typical of the self-sacrificing mom who, "when hard pressed may admit that perhaps she looked 'played out' and is actually a bit tired but she chirps brightly "What of it?" The implication is that she does not care how she looks or feels, for in her heart there is the unselfish joy of service. From dawn until late at night she finds happiness in doing for her children" (Strecker 52). which is in fact a traditionally inflicted familial affliction.

In her family there was hatred in everybody's eyes when Nawal stood up to them. But her mother would feel proud and happy as she watched her daughter fought her battles against them. Her mother made her childhood happy. "Her voice in the stillness of the night was like the voice of God, and her laugh in the morning a ray of sunlight. It made me run towards her, lift my arms up in the air so that she would take me to her breast, and we could play and sing together: 'The sun has risen, a light more beautiful than any light. The shining sun. The smell of my mother's body is part of me, of my body, of its spirit, of the hidden strength I carry within me. She is the voice that speaks to me if something's wrong, rescues me just in time, encourages me in moments of despair" (DI 4).

The importance of a mother's education and attitudes about education for girls is recognized by sociologists of education as critical in the educational achievement of children, particularly girls. Especially when the male Islamic community attempts to deprive the benefits of education to their women it takes not just mental strength but an 'emotional empowerment' to retaliate, wound and yet achieve- in short to be a 'One-Man Majority' than merely accept the usual anodyne of 'facile submissiveness'. It is noteworthy that Saadawi's mother, Zaynab, was the first and most important supporter of her education. Zaynab wanted her to continue her education and become a medical student. She spent her whole life taking care of the nine children and her husband. All the six