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Challenging Gender Inequality Through Deconstructing Power Dynamics: Nawal El Saadawi and Egyptian Family Law

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Challenging Gender Inequality Through Deconstructing Power Dynamics: Nawal El Saadawi and Egyptian Family Law

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Abstract

This article aims to examine the power dynamics in Egyptian family law and the challenges encountered in achieving gender equality. The focus is on Nawal El Saadawi's role in pushing for more inclusive family law change. The research findings reveal discriminatory practices against women in Egyptian family law, particularly in marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance. Nawal El Saadawi's strategies and activism aim to address and confront gender inequality within family law. The study has contributed to a shift towards a more inclusive understanding of family law. Nawal El Saadawi has had a positive impact in improving the protection of women's rights. This research confirms the important role of women like Nawal El Saadawi as agents of social change. The research uses qualitative methods with library research. Primary data sources are the works of Nawal Saadawi that discusses the theme of Egyptian family law, secondary sources of data are other literature relevant to the topic discussed are also used in the research. Research findings focused on discrimination against women in Egyptian family law. She highlighted several aspects such as divorce procedures, polygamy, bait at tho'ab, livelihoods, and gifts that were judged to be detrimental to women. The research will develop concrete recommendations that can be used as a guide to address the gender gap that still exists in family law and to analyze the influence of social change on existing power dynamics and the position of women in a family environment.

Keywords: Gender Inequality, Egyptian Family Law, Legal Change, Activist Roles, Gender Equality.

INTRODUCTION

Family law in Egypt, as in many other countries, is often the arena of gender power struggles. This research goes from that reality, focusing on the gender inequality still embedded in Egyptian family law. A study of literature used to reveal discriminatory practices against women in Egyptian family law, in matters of marriage, divorce, custody of children, and inheritance (Takemura, 2024). However, not much research has specifically highlighted

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the role of activists and feminist thinkers like Nawal El Saadawi in fighting for more inclusive family law change.

The findings of the study are expected not only to reveal discriminatory practices against women in Egyptian family law, such as divorce procedures that are detrimental to women, polygamy, temple at tho'ah (wife's obedience), living rights, and inheritance, but also to highlight Nawal El Saadawi's strategy and activism in an effort to gender equality.

Thus, the study has a novelty as it not only reveals gender discrimination in Egyptian family law (Baroud & El-Alayli, 2018), but also highlights the important role of Nawal El Saadawi as an agent of social change. Through his struggles, Nawal El Saadawi has contributed to the shift towards a more inclusive understanding of family law and has had a positive impact on increased protection of women's rights. Besides, some prominent figures have started studying and issuing some opinions to criticize gender discrimination.

Since the beginning of the 20th century (Khoiruddin, 2001, pp. 3–4), The winds of family law reform are blowing in Muslim countries. Prominent Muslim scholars such as Sayyid Ameer Ali, Muhammad Abduh, Qassim Amin, Thahir Haddad, Fatima Mernissi, and Amina Wadud spearheaded the movement. Sayyed Ameer Ali from India championed gender equality in marriage and women's rights. Muhammad Abduh of Egypt pushed for a reinterpretation of Islamic law to address the challenges of modern times (Jambunanda, 2023). Qassim Amin, also from Egypt, criticized patriarchy and polygamy, and called for women's education and reform of marriage laws. Thahir Haddad from Tunisia succeeded in abolishing the practice of polygamy and unilateral talaq in his country (Noviana, 2021; Shah, 2017). Fatima Mernissi from Morocco challenges traditions and cultures that restrict women, and pushes for a reinterpretation of the Quran in favor of gender equality (Ennaji, 2022; Rhouni, 2009). Amina Wadud from the United States challenges traditional interpretations of the Quran that are considered discriminatory against women (Ariesita & Adhitya, 2023; Wadud et al., 2020). The thinking of these scholars has exerted a major influence on the movement for family law reform in Muslim countries. Their contributions have helped create a more just and equal society for all, both men and women (Khoiruddin, 2001).

Despite much progress, family law reform in Muslim countries still faces many challenges. Conservatives continue to oppose change, and implementation of legal reforms has not always been easy and consistent. The gap between law and practice in the field still

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exists. However, the future of family law reform in Muslim countries looks bright (Htun & Weldon, 2011). Scholars and activists continue to work to create a more just and equal society for all. With progressive thinking and action, it is hoped that family law in Muslim countries will continue to evolve and reflect the values of justice and equality for all. The reform of family law in Muslim countries is an ongoing and dynamic process. The thinking of Muslim scholars has played an important role in driving change, and the future of the movement looks bright.

Other figures such as Nawal el Saadawi (1931-2021) She was one of the figures who actively fought for the renewal of family law in the late 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century (Shehata, 2023, p. 25). She criticized and proposed several changes to family law in Egypt, his own country. Nawal focused his criticism on the discriminatory nature of Egyptian family law. This can be seen from restrictions on wives' space (bait at tho'ah), the relaxation of husbands' rights to polygamy and divorce wives, as well as several other provisions that harm women. According to Nawal, this discriminatory family law hinders the progress of human life and actually causes deterioration (El-Saadawi, 2017b, pp. 26–27).

Some of the research questions raised in this article are: How can Nawal el Saadawi's criticism of family law in Egypt, especially in relation to divorce, polygamy, temple at tho'ah, livelihoods, and hadhanah, inspire academics and law practitioners in the search for a gender-equitable family law format? How do other authors view Nawal el Saadawi's criticism of family law in Egypt, and do they offer alternative solutions? How did Nawal el-Saadawi propose a change in religious thought, freedom of thought, and economic independence for women as a solution to the injustice of family law in Egypt? The above questions will be outlined in this article.

Nawal el Saadawi (1931-2021), an Egyptian feminist, activist, physician, and psychiatrist, she is known as one of the staunch champions of family law reform in the late 20th to early 21st centuries. She critically highlighted family law in Egypt which she considered discriminatory against women, such as restrictions on wives' movement, easing polygamy and talaq rights for husbands, and various other provisions that harm women (Khoiruddin, 2001). According to Nawal, this discriminatory family law hinders progress and actually causes deterioration in human life. Her criticism was based on her understanding of Islam and her experience as a woman in Egypt. Throughout his life, Nawal

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el Saadawi actively wrote books and his works raised many women's issues in Islam, including the practice of female genital mutilation. Her dedication and struggle inspired many to fight for gender equality and social justice (El-Saadawi, 2017a, p. 80).

The context of the role of this research has a very important impact in increasing gender awareness and encouraging the formation of more inclusive, equitable, and resilient policies. By conducting an in-depth analysis of data collected from various reliable sources, this research is able to reveal hidden patterns and explain complex phenomena. In addition, the study also identifies challenges faced by women and men in various aspects of life, including education, work, and health. Through deeper understanding and critical thinking, this research seeks to formulate innovative and sustainable solutions that can address the lingering gender inequality. Thus, this research has great potential to make a significant contribution in creating a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society (Goussault-Capmas et al., 2024).

Previously, there have been several studies conducted with respect to the issue of gender inequality in Egyptian family law. Some of these studies have provided a fairly good understanding of the current state of affairs and the challenges faced in efforts to achieve gender equality in the context of family law. However, there are shortcomings that need to be addressed in previous studies due to a lack of in-depth understanding of the power dynamics underlying Egyptian family law and its impact on lingering gender inequalities (Muhtarom et al., 2023, p. 39). Therefore, this research will complement previous studies by exploring further aspects that have not been revealed before. In addition, this research will also make new contributions in this field of study by presenting a more comprehensive and in-depth perspective. Thus, it is hoped that this research can become a strong foundation for effective policy measures in improving gender equality in Egyptian family law.

Nawal el Saadawi, an Egyptian writer and women's activist, has produced many works on gender thinking. To date, however, no studies have specifically examined the relationship between his thinking and family law in Egypt. Much of Nawal el Saadawi's research focuses on her feminist ideas embodied in her works, such as in the study "Feminist Themes in Nawal el Saadawi's Novels" by Maryam Habibah (Maryam Habibah Kamis, 2015, pp. 107–112). This research shows how Nawal el Saadawi conveyed her feminist ideas and how these ideas were implemented in real life. Although research on Nawal el Saadawi's thought focuses

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mostly on gender issues, there is still room for more specific research on the influence of his thoughts on family law in Egypt.

16 Firmansyah, in his work "The Existence of Egyptian Women in the Novel Women at Point Zero by Nawal Saadawi"(Firman Syah, Fadlil Yani Ainusyamsi, 2021, p. 66), uncovering the harsh reality of Egyptian women shackled by gender injustice. The novel portrays various forms of oppression, such as marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and the additional workload that women face. In the midst of this oppression, Firmansyah also found the spirit of resistance of Egyptian women in maintaining their existence. Nawal Saadawi, through her work, gave voice to Egyptian women and demonstrated their determination to achieve freedom and equality.

The study of family law in Egypt is still fixated on its history and methods of reform. Reform efforts in the 21st century focused on the age limit for marriage, marriage registration(Khoiruddin, 2001), Divorce procedures, polygamy, and mandatory wills. The models of takhayyur (adjustment to the situation of the times), siyasah syar'iyah (policies based on Islamic law), and text reinterpretation (reinterpretation of religious texts) were used to update family law in Egypt(Amin & Agustar, 2023, p. 75).

9 Concepts used in this study include: Nawal El Saadawi's Dynamics of Power: El Nawal used his criticism of Egyptian family law as a tool to explore and challenge the dynamics of power that exist in society, especially in relation to the role and rights of women in patriarchal power structures. Gender inequality: Nawal El Saadawi highlighted the gender disparities still existing in Egyptian family law, especially in relation to divorce, polygamy, temple at tho'ah, livelihood, and hadhanah, which are considered to be detrimental to women (Firman Syah, Fadlil Yani Ainusyamsi, 2021, p. 68).

1 From the view above, a few things can be concluded as follows. First, the matter of Egyptian family law relating to divorce proceedings, polygamy, temple at tho'ah, livelihoods and hadhanah, was considered by Nawal to be discriminatory against women. This discrimination is caused by the state's submission to the party culture in the middle of society. 1 Secondly, the attempt to establish a just family law must begin with the principle of freedom of thought adopted by scholars and lawmakers.

There are several things to note in this study. First, a detailed analysis of Egypt's family law history and how gender views have changed over time. This will help understand the

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context and background of current family law. During this study, a comprehensive literature review will be conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding Egyptian family law. Comparative analysis with other countries that have different family law systems will also be carried out to find out the advantages and disadvantages of the existing system. By comparing the experiences and approaches of these countries, valuable lessons can be drawn to inform next policy steps.

The research will also use qualitative methodology to collect and analyze relevant sources. These data will be used to identify patterns in Egyptian family law that result in gender inequality. The results of this analysis will be the basis for drafting policy recommendations that can bring about positive changes in Egyptian family law. By involving a comprehensive range of approaches and methodologies, this research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the issue of gender inequality in Egyptian family law. Thus, this research can be a valuable reference source for the government (El-Saadawi, 2017b) and relevant institutions in improving existing policies and regulations, thus creating a fairer and more equal legal environment for all individuals, regardless of gender.

The study of relevant literature on Egyptian family law has been carried out diligently and thoroughly to gain a better understanding of the issues related to gender inequality experienced by Egyptian society. Many previous studies have identified and revealed major flaws in Egypt's family law as well as the negative impact it has on women within the country. In addition, it cannot be overlooked that literature discussing the phenomenal role of Nawal El Saadawi in the Egyptian feminist movement has also become important reading in this study. In this study, the perspective of the literature review will be a strong foundation for analyzing the problems that exist in Egyptian family law and the non-profit strategy used by Nawal El Saadawi to challenge all forms of gender inequality that still persist today. With this research, it is hoped that a more just and comprehensive solution will be found in terms of protecting and empowering women's rights in Egypt, eliminating all forms of gender discrimination, and creating significant positive changes in Egyptian society towards true gender equality (Shehata, 2023).

This research will analyze more documents and articles, comparative research methods (Moleong, 2017) It will also be used to compare Egyptian family law with family law from other countries that have adopted a more inclusive and progressive approach to gender

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1 issues. In order to strengthen legal protection and promote social change, we can achieve true gender equality and end discrimination against women in Egypt. Research questions raised in this article are: How can Nawal el Saadawi's criticism of family law in Egypt, especially in relation to divorce, polygamy, bait at tho'ah, livelihoods, and hadhanah, inspire academics and law practitioners in the search for a gender-equitable family law format? How do other authors view Nawal el Saadawi's criticism of family law in Egypt, and do they offer alternative solutions? How did Nawal el-Saadawi propose a change in religious thought, freedom of thought, and economic independence for women as a solution to the injustice of family law in Egypt? The above questions will be outlined in this article.

8 The research methodology to be used in this study is a qualitative study method that involves an in-depth descriptive approach (Diantha, 2019). Data analysis will be carried out carefully and systematically. In identifying patterns emerging from collected sources, researchers will use a comprehensive and in-depth approach (Amruddin, 2022). This research will explore the various challenges faced in Egyptian family law. An in-depth analysis will be conducted to understand the structural, social, and cultural barriers that may be obstacles in achieving this goal. Through this comprehensive study, it is hoped that this research can provide better insight into power dynamics in the context of Egyptian family law.

DISCUSSION

6 In this section, we will present an in-depth explanation of the results of our research related to the power dynamics that exist in Egyptian family law. We will conduct a very detailed analysis of the changes that have taken place in Egyptian family law and consider the implications for existing gender inequality. In addition, we will also exaggerate the impact of some of the criticisms that Nawal El Saadawi has expressed on Egyptian family law, with the aim of highlighting the problems and challenges that actually need to be addressed urgently in this context (Shehata, 2023).

29 Comprehensive details of some of the fundamental issues of gender inequality in family law. We will cover in detail the issues of family law procedures that are often complex and complicate access for affected individuals. Not only that, we will also expand the discussion related to the issue of polygamy (Wahib, 2014a) which often gave rise to injustice and displeasure in Egyptian society. Next, we will discuss in detail the ownership of property in

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the context of Egyptian family law, which is often a determining factor in gender inequality. In addition, we will also not miss child care and wife obligations as two important aspects of family law that often result in gender injustice.

Towards the end of our explanation, we will present our comprehensive analysis of all the previously mentioned issues. We will offer practical solutions that can be implemented to improve gender equality in the context of Egyptian family law. As such, we hope that our exposure will provide a deeper understanding of the complexity of this issue and inspire concrete steps that can be taken to achieve the goal of greater equality in Egyptian family law.

Development of Egyptian Family Law

Family law in Egypt has undergone significant development over the centuries, influenced by various religious, social, and political factors. Here's the broad line of its development: Pre-Modern Era: Family law is based on the principles of Islamic Shariah, especially the Hanafi mazhab. Polygamy is allowed, and women's rights in marriage and divorce are limited. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Egypt underwent a series of legal reforms aimed at modernizing its legal system (Zayyadi, 2014). These reforms included the codification of family law into written laws and the expansion of women's rights.

The Personal Status Act of 1920: the Personal Status Law of 1920 was an important milestone in the development of family law in Egypt (Wahib, 2014b). The law gives women the right to divorce their husbands under certain conditions, restricts polygamy, and enhances women's inheritance rights. Next Amendment: Since 1920, Egyptian family law has undergone further amendments to extend the rights of women and children.

We analyse how these changes affect gender inequality in family law. Marriage reform, divorce, and women's rights are positive steps. However, there is still potential for further improvement to eliminate gender inequality entirely. We highlight the importance of women's empowerment and propose further measures such as reducing gaps in marriage and supporting fair divorce procedures (Zulfa et al., 2023, p. 208). These reforms can be the basis for achieving gender equality in Egypt, but require hard work and involvement from all stakeholders. The analysis is expected to inspire policymakers to push for positive changes in Egypt's family law (Khoiruddin, 2001).

Nawal el Saadawi's Critique of Contemporary Issues of Egyptian Family Law

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Nawal El Saadawi, a prominent Egyptian feminist, has been critical of his country's family law that discriminates against women and violates gender inequality. She opposes early marriage, polygamy, unfair divorce rules, gender biased custody, and minimum protection for women from violence. His criticism, although intimidating, has sparked public debate and prompted legal reforms to bring about justice and equality for women in Egypt. We describe in detail the criticisms raised by Nawal El Saadawi against Egypt's ongoing family law. Through in-depth analysis, we see and understand the challenges faced in trying to overcome these complaints. It cannot be ignored that fighting gender injustice in Egypt is a very complex task, especially since the legal structure is still heavily dominated by patriarchal views(El-Saadawi, 2017c, p. 28). Nonetheless, Saadawi's critique is an important and courageous step on the road to change that is just and equal for all individuals.

Egypt's current family laws, by far, tend to favor men and neglect women in many aspects of their family life(El-Saadawi, 2017b). This creates substantial gender inequality and cannot be ignored. One of the main challenges faced is strong resistance from those who maintain the status quo, which often leads to deadlock in efforts to secure fairer change for the rest of society.

Not only underscoring gender injustice in family law, Saadawi's criticism also emphasizes the urgency of the importance of gender equality as well as the need to fight discrimination in all its forms(El-Saadawi, 2017b). Saadawi has managed to cast an authoritative voice in the struggle to achieve better gender equality, and her criticism has transformed into a kind of burning driving spirit in the effort to bring about the necessary changes in Egypt's family law.

The criticisms raised by Saadawi clearly reflect the inevitability and urgent need to change existing family laws(Mujibur Rohman & Zarkasi, 2021, p. 24). This highlights how important it is to address gender injustice that occurs in the systematic structure of family law. There is no doubt that a radical transformation must be undertaken to achieve a just and equal society for all individuals in Egypt and around the world.

Administrative Technical Problems

We identified several significant problems in Egyptian family law procedures that contribute markedly to gender inequality at an alarming rate. These problems include administrative barriers faced by women in accessing the rights they deserve easily, the lack

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of adequate protection for victims of domestic violence that occurs so often, and cultural stereotypes that often affect the resolution of cases related to family problems (Khoiruddin, 2001). This research identifies various factors that contribute to gender inequality in Egyptian family law. Women are faced with administrative barriers, minimal protection for victims of DRC, and discriminatory cultural stereotypes. The combination of these factors creates a widespread gap of injustice, preventing women from gaining their rights and exacerbating gender disparities in Egypt. Comprehensive transformative efforts are needed, ranging from law reform, strengthening protective mechanisms, to public education to eliminate discriminatory cultural stereotypes, to realize gender justice in Egyptian family law.

In our in-depth analysis, we saw how much impact these problems in Egypt's family law procedures had on gender inequality that still exists today. We felt the need to offer a number of suggestions and recommendations to improve Egypt's rudimentary family law system. Our suggestions will not only help address existing problems, but are also expected to bring significant changes in efforts to achieve true gender equality.

The Problem of Polygamy in Egyptian Family Law

3 A meticulous and in-depth investigation into the problem of polygamy in the context of family law in Egypt is very complex and diverse (Utsman Amin, 2015, p. 30). In our discussion, we not only discussed the various regulations and restrictions associated with the practice of polygamy, but we also conducted a more in-depth analysis to analyze the significant impact it had on gender inequality that still exists today. In addition, we also conducted a very critical study of the arguments that form the basis of this practice of polygamy and involve implications that greatly affect women's lives (Wahib, 2014a).

4 In analyzing the above text in line with the findings of some research published in international journals. According to Amira Mashhour (2005) Islamic Law and Gender Equality: Could There be a Common Ground?: A Study of Divorce and Polygamy in Sharia Law and Contemporary Legislation in Tunisia and Egypt, polygamy practices supported by certain religious doctrines can have a negative impact on women. Further research is needed to better understand the practice of polygamy, including its impact on women and children, as well as the underlying arguments behind it.

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32 Some solutions are simple but also present some comprehensive solution options to address the ongoing problem in Egyptian family law regarding polygamy. Through that, the

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hope is to create and realize an environment that fully respects gender equality and justice for all individuals involved in the future(El-Saadawi, 2017b).

The Problem of the Wife's Role in the Household

3 We discuss comprehensively the issue of wife obedience (Bait at Thaah) in family law in Egypt that affects the wife's role in marriage, Nawal El Saadawi, a staunch feminist and critic of patriarchal structures, would likely take strong objection to the concept of absolute wife obedience (Bait al-Ta'ah) enshrined in Egyptian family law. She would argue that such a law reduces wives to mere caretakers and subordinates, stripping them of agency and autonomy within the marriage. El Saadawi would likely point out that this obligation reinforces gender inequality and hinders women's ability to achieve personal fulfillment(El-Saadawi, 2017b). In this analysis, we explore the concept of wife obedience in the context of Egyptian family law, including the wife's role in taking care of the household and the obligation to obey the husband's orders as key pillars in marriage.

In outlining the impact of this concept on gender inequality, we discuss the social, economic, and emotional implications arising from the pressure received by wives to always be obedient. We look at how this concept can affect a woman's freedom and personal life, as well as how it can perpetuate a cycle of inequality in society.

13 In dealing with this problem, we argue that a change in society's view and legal system regarding wife obedience is a must. We encourage a review of traditional views on wife compliance, promoting gender equality and women's rights as new foundations in Egyptian family law. This research, drawing on reputable sources from Annelies Moors(2018), tackles the concept of wifely obedience within Egyptian family law. The authors argue for a fundamental shift, proposing a critical review of traditional expectations of wifely compliance. They advocate for a legal and societal framework built on gender equality and women's rights. The paper delves into the necessity of transforming existing social norms and legal structures to create a more inclusive and equitable family environment for all. By critically examining the concept of wifely obedience, the research explores its potential removal as a catalyst for positive change towards a more gender-balanced society. Ultimately, the aim is to spark dialogue and raise awareness on this crucial issue. This, the authors hope, will garner support for a more inclusive approach to the role and expectations of wives within Egyptian family law, both in societal views and the legal system.

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We raise questions around the need for changes in existing social rules and norms to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for all family members. We provide critical thinking on how the removal of the concept of wife obedience can stimulate positive change in the construction of a more gender-equal society. Through this paper, we hope to encourage dialogue and broader awareness of this issue and build support for more inclusive changes in the views of Egyptian society and the legal system regarding the role and compliance of wives in family law.

Child Custody Issues

Hadhanah is another important issue in the context of Egyptian family law. Hadhanah is the guardian right possessed by a man in deciding the marriage of his daughter. In practice, many women are victims of unfair decisions from their guardians, such as untimely marriages or with unwanted parties. This results in gender inequality in marriage, as women have no control over their own lives. Nawal El Saadawi highlights this problem in his work and challenges this injustice through critical analysis and the offer of solutions to improve Egypt's family law system(El-Saadawi, 2017b).

We discussed the issue of hadhanah in Egyptian family law. We analyze the concept of guardianship and the role of the father in the determination of the life of the child after divorce. We identify problems that can arise in the implementation of hadhanah and gender equality in this regard. We also offer solutions and alternatives that can improve the protection of women's and children's rights in Egyptian family law on this issue(El-Saadawi, 2017b).

Background of Nawal El Saadawi

Nawal El Saadawi is an Egyptian writer, physician, and female activist born in 1931. She has fought all her life to fight for gender equality in society, especially in the context of family law in Egypt(Shehata, 2023). El Saadawi has been a bold and powerful voice in exposing gender inequality and oppression of women in her country. In her remarkable writings, she describes the experiences and hardships experienced by many Egyptian women in the patriarchal family law system that has made her one of the pillars of the gender equality movement in Egypt and around the world. El Saadawi's background as a physician gives her

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a unique perspective on the devastating impact that gender inequality has had on the lives of Egyptian women and she valiantly explores the complexities of such issues in her colourful works (Baytiyeh, 2019). Through her evocative and inspiring works, El Saadawi managed to build a deep understanding and broad public support for more just and equal changes in Egyptian family law, forming a strong foundation for a better life for women in Egypt and around the world (El-Saadawi, 2019, p. 176).

Nawal El Saadawi's Struggle for Gender Justice

Nawal El Saadawi's struggle to achieve gender justice in Egypt has been going on for years. She has been a sharp critic of gender inequality in family law, both in her writings and in her activities as a women's activist. El Saadawi has gone through personal experiences as a woman in Egypt limited by patriarchal rules in family law. She has fought this oppression by publicizing her experiences and thoughts, holding discussions and meetings with the community, and cooperating with other organizations fighting for gender equality. In her struggle, Nawal El Saadawi has gained international recognition and is revered as a feminist hero and one of the most influential figures in the gender equality movement in Egypt (Newson, 2010, p. 7).

24 Nawal El Saadawi, a renowned feminist and women's rights activist, has dedicated her life to challenging gender inequality in Egypt. Her writings and activism have been instrumental in bringing to light the injustices faced by women under patriarchal family laws. Drawing inspiration from her own experiences, El Saadawi has tirelessly advocated for change, engaging in community discussions, collaborating with other organizations, and publicizing her views. Her unwavering commitment has earned her international recognition as a feminist hero and a pivotal figure in Egypt's gender equality movement.

Nawal El Saadawi's Influence in the Egyptian Feminist Movement

26 Nawal El Saadawi had a very large and significant influence in the feminist movement in Egypt (Shehata, 2023). She not only inspired and influenced many women in the country, but also on an extraordinary level. Through her extraordinarily powerful and vivid writings, she has provided a different perspective and deepened understanding of the condition of women in Egyptian society as well as the role of family law in maintaining gender inequality (Ennin & Sam, 2023).

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Not only that, Nawal El Saadawi has also paved the way and laid a strong foundation for other women to speak out and play an active role in the feminist movement. In an effort to fight for their rights, she has established various organizations and institutions focused on the protection and empowerment of women, as well as advocating for gender equality. In the course of time, Nawal El Saadawi's influence in the Egyptian feminist movement is still felt strongly. Her incredible works and inspiring ideas have transcended boundaries and remain an important resource for women's struggle to achieve absolute gender justice. In Nawal El Saadawi's courage and perseverance, many women saw and found inspiration and role models for those who also fought for equality and justice (Neal-Stanley, 2024).

With all her achievements and passionate approach, Nawal El Saadawi continues to be a source of inspiration for many women around the world who are fighting for their rights. Her presence has ignited a flame of change that will never be extinguished, and her legacy within the feminist movement remains relevant and powerful today. The spirit of Nawal El Saadawi lights the way for women who want to pursue their dreams and demand true gender justice.

Nawal El Saadawi's Analysis of Egyptian Family Law

Nawal El Saadawi carefully analyzed Egypt's family law system, identified a number of related issues and raised some unfair assumptions between husband and wife (El-Saadawi, 2017b). In his analysis, she clearly highlights that the process of marriage, divorce, and the regulation of family rights tend to favor men over women. Saadawi, as a staunch feminist, firmly opposed polygamy which ultimately promoted gender inequality and harmed the position of women in society (Toman, 2024).

Through this in-depth analysis, Saadawi unequivocally reveals and proves how important it is to make significant changes and reforms in family law to provide proper protection and equality for women in Egypt, and fight for the rights of those who have long been neglected and marginalized. Thus, Saadawi's thought and analysis have given a call to all elements of society to unite and move forward towards an indispensable and awaited change in Egypt's family law system. In this context, it should be emphasized that the struggle to achieve gender equality and fair protection for women must be a top priority for the Egyptian nation. In the face of these challenges, it is important for all parties to acknowledge

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and address the reality that the current family law system has created structural injustices that cripple women's progress and well-being.

To move forward, concrete steps are needed that change the paradigm of male domination to equal rights and protection for all individuals, not only in the context of marriage and divorce (Khoiruddin, 2001), but also in terms of financial arrangements, inheritance rights, and child custody. Such transformation cannot be ignored or delayed any longer, because equal rights and protection are human rights that must be obtained by every individual, regardless of their gender.

Therefore, if Egypt is truly to move forward as a just and inclusive country, comprehensive and progressive changes in family law must be a priority. This will involve reforming a legal system that promotes equality, protects women from violence and discrimination, and guarantees them fair and equal rights (El-Saadawi, 2017c).

We all have a moral and social responsibility to support this change. As Egyptians, we must unite and fight against the systematic injustices that have destroyed the potential and dignity of many women in this country. Together, we can bring about positive change and realize the dream of equality that many women have always wanted (Thampy, 2021).

Let us join hands and fight against gender injustice, in order to create a better and just future for all individuals in Egypt. Saadawi has embarked on this change with his in-depth analysis, and now it is our duty to continue this struggle until achieving a true vision of equality and an inclusive family law system in our beloved country.

Nawal El Saadawi's Impact on Egypt's Family Law Changes

Nawal El Saadawi's very significant impact in changing family law in Egypt cannot be underestimated. Through his incisive writings and inspiring speeches, she has driven a very significant change that cannot be ignored in family law reform. She has boldly and forcefully criticized and highlighted deeply discriminatory and unequal laws against women, which include unfair and unfair and unequal laws on marriage, divorce, and child custody (Jambunanda et al., 2023). His sharp, clear, and impassioned critique has sparked a deep awareness among citizens and governments, and has been a very important first step towards bringing about change that is far more just, equitable, inclusive, and socially just for all. In every word she writes, in every word she speaks, Nawal El Saadawi has marked his courage and decisiveness in fighting for equality and justice in family law in Egypt, and his

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monumental legacy of struggle will live on to inspire and inspire ambitious future generations to bring about more just, equal and progressive change in our struggling world (Shehata, 2023).

Nawal El Saadawi's positive influence in family law reform is undeniable. His persistent action against injustice has stimulated thought and awakened the spirit of change in Egyptian society. In his remarkable works, El Saadawi has transcended existing boundaries and questioned unjust beliefs. Her sharp and forceful criticism of gender inequality in marriage, divorce, and child custody has forced governments and societies to reconsider their patriarchal views. She has been a voice for millions of women who are unfairly treated and has raised concerns about the need for change. In his passionate and impassioned words, El Saadawi has marked the way for socially just and inclusive change in Egypt (Shehata, 2023).

His great legacy will continue to influence and inspire future generations to fight for equality and justice in family law. Nawal El Saadawi's brilliance and perseverance in fighting injustice will continue to be a source of inspiration for those with high ambitions to create a more just, equal and progressive world.

Future Challenges in Achieving Gender Equality in Egypt

The future of achieving gender equality in Egypt still faces several complex challenges that require serious attention. First, obstacles in the implementation of family law changes are one of the things that need to be overcome effectively and sustainably. Although some legal amendments have been made to reduce gender inequality, further efforts are needed to ensure that these laws are actually implemented and produce real changes in everyday life. This requires close cooperation between governments, legal institutions, and civil society organizations (Shehata, 2023).

In addition, the role of society is also an important factor in promoting gender equality in Egypt. Despite efforts by activists and legal changes, gender equality will not be achieved without the support and active participation of the wider community. Public education and awareness about the importance of gender equality must continue to be improved through effective campaigns and participation in gender strengthening programs at all levels (El-Saadawi, 2017c).

In the context of the future challenge of achieving gender equality in Egypt, it should be noted that family law changes that are still discriminatory against women, such as in

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25 divorce, polygamy, and livelihood proceedings, are one of the main obstacles. Nawal El Saadawi's criticism of the still strong patriarchal culture in Egyptian society also demonstrates the need for cultural transformation to better gender equality (Shaw, 2023). In addition, the active participation of women in the process of formulating family law policies is also crucial in addressing these challenges and ensuring better representation of the women's interests in the legislative reform.

Cases that reflect gender inequalities in family law in Egypt

In Egypt, there are several cases that reflect gender inequality in family law. One case that is quite controversial is the divorce case. Many women have difficulty obtaining their rights in divorce, such as child custody and livelihood (El-Saadawi, 2017b). In addition, cases of polygamy are also a problem that often arises. Family law in Egypt allows men to have more than one wife, which can increase injustice against women. The issue of ownership of inheritance property is also an important issue in this study.

Women often do not inherit fairly compared to men. All these cases show that gender inequality is still a problem in Egyptian family law and poses a challenge for women in seeking justice (Shehata, 2023).

Gender inequality in family law in Egypt has become an issue that continues to receive attention from various parties. Many women struggle to get justice in divorce, but still face many obstacles and obstacles. They have to fight hard to obtain child custody and the income they should have earned easily. In addition, the issue of polygamy also continues to be a hot debate in Egyptian society. Many highlighted that legal policies that allow men to have more than one wife can result in injustice against women (Wahib, 2014a).

Gender inequalities in family law in Egypt are an issue that continues to attract attention from various parties. Women in Egypt struggle for justice in divorce and custody, but still face many obstacles (Demery, 2023). They have to fight hard to get the rights they should get easily. Besides, the issue of polygamy has also been a hot debate in Egyptian society, with many highlighting that legal policies that allow men to have more than one wife can lead to injustice towards women.

All these cases only underscore that gender inequality still affects women in seeking justice within Egypt's family law system. These challenges faced by women must not be ignored and there must be concrete action to create positive change. Family law should be

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5 able to provide protection and equal rights for all individuals, regardless of their sex. Only by addressing gender inequality can we achieve true justice in advanced Egyptian society.

CONCLUSION

1 From the analysis of the data carried out, the main theme emerged was Nawal el Saadawi's criticism of family law in Egypt, mainly related to discrimination against women in terms of divorce, polygamy, bait at tho'ah, livelihood, and hadhanah. Nawal el Saadawi highlighted that family law in Egypt is still affected by a patriarchal culture that is detrimental to women. He offered a solution by stressing the need for religious change, freedom of thought, and economic independence for women as a step towards a fairer family law.

1 Nawal el Saadawi criticized Egyptian family law, especially in relation to divorce, polygamy, temple at tho'ah, livelihoods, and hadhanah, which are considered discriminatory against women. Saadawi highlighted that discrimination occurred because of the state's bestowal on the patriarchal culture in Egyptian society. Nawal el Saadawi's Solution Offer to Implement a Fair Family Law. Nawal el Saadawi stressed the need to strengthen the principle of freedom of thought among scholars and legal practitioners as a first step in the realization of a just family law. Nawal el Saadawi also stressed the importance of women having economic capacity to have a strong bargaining position in marriage relationships. Furthermore, the study aims to provide concrete recommendations as a guide to addressing the gender gaps that still exist in Egyptian family law. The study also wants to analyze the impact of social change on the dynamics of existing power and the position of women in the family environment.

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