

**Shampa Iftakhar**

**Project Title:** In the Light of What We Know: Sex Violence and Our women

**Abstract:**

*In the Light of What We Know* is Zia Haider Rahman's debut novel, published in 2014. The novel focuses on Zafar, born in rural Bangladesh, who rises through his intelligence and hard work, to a position of some prominence. He has maintained a long-time friendship with a wealthy Pakistani investment banker. He turns up on his doorstep one morning, dirty and disheveled. A long narrative relates Zafar's adventures, love, science, war, knowledge, philosophy, politics, the entire nature of life, existence, belonging, math, free will, and quantum physics. The novel has many merits of its own. But, unfortunately, women characters are shown as non-entity characters. The female characters in this book are hardly even human. We are engrossed in a man's world where Zafar has justified his rape. Despite the increased women leadership in Bangladesh, Zia Haider Rahman's *In the Light of What We Know* represents women in a disgraceful manner that shades light on different challenges women face regardless to time and place. In Bangladesh, sex violence has become so common that adult women to female infants are in at risk of being raped or sexually harassed. More surprisingly, in a patriarchy society, victims of sex violence face more venerable situation as the convicts have the mindset to treat these heinous acts as justified one. Ultimately, review of the patriarchy structure has become unavoidable task. Then it is quest of many psychologists to trigger out the disordered mentality that leads a man to rape. The focus of this paper is to explore predominating factors the lead male to engage in sex violence. These factors include social structure, history, psychology and politics.

**Key Words:** *In the Light of What We Know*, women leadership, challenges, sex violence, patriarchy society, disordered mentality.