

MA

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### Parvana's Motivation for her Family

Imagine living in a government that prohibits you to receive education because of your gender. Well, eleven-year-old girl Parvana (from "The Breadwinner" by Deborah Ellis) now stuck with her hard-working, crippled father at the market in Kabul, Afghanistan. Then one day, soldiers barged into her family's house and captured her father. Nevertheless, the thought of her family motivates Parvana in her day to day life. She handles risks for her family to continue to reside in a suitable living environment. Additionally, family relationships motivate characters, therefore the family can influence a character's identity.

The speculation of Parvana's father's state haunts her after her father's departure. Yet, Parvana's father's energy affected her so much, she continues to be awake at night, distressed by her father's imprisonment. "Parvana couldn't sleep... She imagined every single noise to be either Father or the Taliban coming back... She missed her father's snoring... Tonight, there was no snoring. 'Where was her Father? Did he have a soft place to sleep? Was he cold? Was he hungry? Was he scared?' p. 37-38. Therefore, her human dignity kept her awake, for worrying so much about her father.

Parvana's motivation for her father also symbolized a positive effect. His image motivated her to continue what her father did, by selling goods and reading letters at the market. "Her father's shoulder bag was slung across her chest... She chose the same spot where she had

gone with her father.” p. 70-71. Thus, after helping aside from her father, Parvana understood how to work at the market.

Not to mention, Parvana received dangerous risks and tough choices, such as: Hollering at a soldier to leave her house to protect her father, entering a prison demanding her father to be released, trimming her hair, and disguise as a boy to be able to feed her family, digging up bones from the graveyard to earn money, and smuggling a young woman to her house at night. All in all, Parvana’s risks are all related to helping others, hence her human nature causes her to care for those who are urgent for aid.

Lastly, Parvana’s relationship with Nooria (her older sister) changed after she realized that Parvana works hard for the family. Throughout the book, Nooria often made negative remarks towards Parvana, like: “You look less ugly as a boy than you do as a girl” or “Father would have made much more” (about how much money she made at the market). Later in the book, Nooria finally recognized that Parvana became crucial to the family, and she stopped the remarks. “A change had come over Nooria. She hadn’t said anything nasty to Parvana in ages.” Nooria outgrew her remarks because it did not benefit anything in her life.

In conclusion, the importance of Parvana’s father affected her throughout the book. Parvana carried a strong caring relationship with her father. She worked as her father and took care of her family as her father. Nooria, viewing Parvana as a little sister outgrew after she saw how hard Parvana worked. And finally, she handles risks like it’s nothing, and she’s brave enough to tackle everything that hits her.