

Feminist Concern in the Select novels of Shashi Deshpande

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Abstract

Feminism has been subtly handled in the massive work of English novels in India. Feminism is defined as a "cultural, economic and political movement that is focused towards establishing legal protection and complete equality for the women". In India, English novelists use oriental approaches to feminism. There are several novels in the English literature of India. That aptly portrays the actual status of women in Indian Societies. The present paper discusses the feminist concern in the select novels namely, That Long Silence, Roots and Shadows and Dark Holds no Terror, etc. MLA 8th edition has been used to cite citations and references.

Keywords: feminism, pan-Indian psyche, displeasure, agony, radical, suffocation

Today's Contemporary Indian English novelists are writing for the masses using the theme of feminism. Feminism does not particularly talk of equality and right of women but it is more about compassion, respect, and understanding from the male counterparts. The main cause for the dissatisfaction of the woman in today's society is the superior attitude of the men. Women have inspired literature and the Feminine theme has been of pivotal importance to them she is also a creator of literature and is all-pervading. This is true of Indian literature also. Indian literature spans a rich variety of themes from the theme of conventional woman to that of the new woman, reflecting in the process the changes that have been going on in the society. Post-independence literature in India and feminism portrays all these trends and voices, the clamoring of women for a new and just way of life.

Feminist ideologies strongly influence Indian literature and English novels. The concept of feminist ideologies had precisely come from the west. Today's women are educated and economically independent. They search for their own identity. All these changing images of Indian women are portrayed in the right-up of the contemporary Indian Novelists. The inception of the feminist movement in 1960 in the west much has been written on women their influence on India resulted in a few breed of Indian feminist novelist.

Among those novelists Shashi Deshpande is one of the most accomplished award-winning contemporary Indian writers in English. She has used the various aspects of the male-dominated society as her theme. In this respect, my paper deals with "feminist concern in the select novel of Shashi Deshpande". A few women novelists like Shashi Deshpande mark a straight journey into the psycho of their human characters than our torn on account of tension generated by the discord between individual and the surroundings. Shashi Deshpande's novels are concerned with the women's quest for self and exploration into the female psyche and an understanding of the mysteries of life and the protagonist's place in it. She effectively portrays the Indian women as she handles the significant theme affecting the lives of women minutely, courageously, and sensitively.

Shashi Deshpande's delineation of women characters is essentially from psychoanalytical point of view. Shashi Deshpande's effort is not only a feminist concern it is essentially psychological her effort is to lay threadbare the inner psyche of her character as they are split personalities. Her stories and novels revolve primarily around the theme of Indian middle class and the problems of domesticity lives of men and women caught in the relationship that are not of their own making. Her *That Long Silence* talks about the protagonist "Jaya" who despite having played the role of a wife and a mother to perfection. Jaya realizes that she has been unjust to herself and her career as a writer as she is afraid of inviting any displeasure from her husband.

The Word 'Compromise, Adjustment, along feminism is made and developed as a survival strategy by Shashi Deshpande. Her another novel *Dark Holds No Terror* (1980) justifies life is full of choices, life is full of compromises. To hold this cord of compromising theme character "Saru" compromises in her life with her husband and her mother for survival without compromise nothing is possible. As a girl, she has to adjust herself twice in her life "Firstly in the father's home and at the second stage under the shadow of father-in-law's house".

Roots and Shadows was another novel that depicted the

agony and suffocation experienced by the protagonist "Indu". She is frustrated with her husband who is no better than less educated and conservative Indian men. Indu is a radical woman. She is seen to be interim against supremacy right from her childhood. Indu refuses to be Cowed by her aunt (Akka), who took her after her father's death, the rich family tyrant who dominated this family. Here we see that feminism not only raises a voice against maledominance but also against the woman who cherishes the value of the patriarchy. Patriarchy is a social system that puts men in a powerful position where they have social, legal, political-religious, and economic authority.

Finally, Shashi Deshpande's women can evaluate their

expectations of life and realize the emotional frustration and trauma they have undergone over the years by being silent, patient, and passive. They evolve into women of their own identity having gained tremendous, courage and self-confidence. They pass thoughts tortures, physical, mental and emotional agony affecting the entire personality. Largely turning them into a whole new being. They realize that they can attain peace of mind through her efforts.

Works Cited

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