

Women Empowerment in Indian English Literature

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Abstract:

‘EMPOWERMENT’ is the way of act or action of empowering somebody with the power, right and authority for playing different roles and duties. Empowerment of women means making them more aware and cautious about their duties and right so that they can play equal role in the society. Women are not treated equal in Indian society rather they are maltreated, misbehaved and considered inferior to men in some realms of life. Moreover, empowerment meant for the freedom of mind, spirit, thoughts and ideas of women. Woman is not the subordinate of man but she is the equal living being like man. Indian literature displays the specimen of women empowerment.

Shashi Deshpande & Charlotte Bronte are the famous female writers in English literature. They recited the examples of very strong, bold and brave female protagonists who set the examples of self identity independently in their lives. These female characters never bow before the struggles of lives, also confront all the problems, hardship and difficulties of life.

Many women writers have given literary work. They depict a world of rich women. They have given importance for the investigation of socio cultural distinctiveness and deep insensitive woman. They portray the modern Indian women aware of their basic needs and problems. They classify the women because they may work for her own empowerment by breaking away the restraints of the traditional bondages.

Shashi Deshpande is a renowned writer who has deep insight into the woman’s awareness. She exposes the outdated positions of women, where she always revolves around the family circle. Her novel depicts the patriarchal background and the plight of modern women in present era. She

present social reality experienced by women in the society. Her females perform their roles as sisters, wives, mothers and revolt against conventional and male oriented world. She describes women with an ideal, sacrifices, patience, devotion and silent sufferings.

Feminism is an original part in the modern intellectual and literary discourse. It is purely reflected in the Shashi Deshpande's various novels. She has described Indian culture as the major subject of her fictional writing. The writer observed the difficulties of the females in the present society and searches about the Indian women's dilemma. She struggles for the women to become free from the traditional world. She introspected about the silence of women in the society. She insists on the consciousness against the repression of the women in the patriarchal society.

Shashi Deshpande has been treated as second status from the past years. She received reputation because she has thrown light on women's issues. Women are marginalized and dominated in societies. A few chances are provided for their welfare. A woman is combating for the well being of her children, husband and family. But man makes partiality about woman about the treatment with equal terms. The image of woman was created by men. Shashi Deshpande has made her hard work to establish the relationship between man and woman. A woman who lived under the shelter of her parents or husband or her children is in suppressed condition. Unmarried woman become the property of her husband after marriage. She had to obey her husband's rule.

She has play role as a chaste, obedient, pleasant, gently, submissive and silent woman. The novelist has made bold attempts at raising a voice to the disappointments and frustrations of women. Today, the woman is strongly conscious about the discrimination heaped on her. She does not believe that woman is an imperfect and must remain passive and obedient. The woman is self satisfactory in all aspects. The only need for woman is to feel self confident. The biggest deficiency for women empowerment is no other than the lack of harmony among them. Indian woman is thinking of herself and her socio cultural replacement in patriarchal system. Woman is increasing slowly towards her liberated journey. She concentrates on the theme of unimportance and sexual confusion suffered by her in traditional society. She has awareness that her life is a sequence of traps created by through the imprisonment of marriage. She has tried to throw light on the women's images with her best efforts in her writings. She has given new

length to the society in the field of feminism. She makes attempt to eradicate the root of various social evils rooted in the society. Indian society is observed crosscurrents of traditional ideals.

Shashi Deshpande's women characters role with the socio cultural values of the changed society. A new generation of women emerged. These women have the capacity to make free choice. These new women characters are not the same. The dilemmas of women's position are exposed. In the society, a woman has culturally assigned norms of behavior. The ideal image of womanhood makes her a disobedient woman. In order to gain equality, they realize their human potential. Women must surpass their distinctive femaleness to lead the life. They must be independent. Shashi Deshpande offers feminist critiques to the patriarchal Indian society. Her artlies in selecting situations. Her novels focused on woman within marital, domestic relationship.

Shashi Deshpande's the first novel *The Dark Holds No Terrors* (1980) presents Sarita's hunt for identity and her claim for equal opportunity to her brother and her husband. It is the story of Saru who feels like a captivated animal, enchanted by her need to succeed at any cost. She needs to find somebody who would care for her. The uselessness of her search becomes noticeable to her when she hears what her mother had commented on listening to the end of the war in Mahabharata. Sarita is the main character of the novel. She has awareness of her gender as a child. She has loveless relationship with her parents and tense relation with her husband. It leads to her search for herself. The novel opens with Saru's return to her parent's house after fifteen years. She left home with a pledge never to return. But her relations with her husband become awfully harassed. She returns for some support of the parents but they neglected to her. Here she gets chance to think over her relationship with her husband, her children, her parents and her dead brother, Dhruva. Saru's relationship with her brother has been given special appearance. She is ignored and dishonored of her brother, Dhruva. She has not got parental love. She is not given significance in the family.

In short women projected by Shashi Deshpande in above stories get adapted with the given circled life. The problem with her women believe in extermination of their male-counterparts for their comfortable moving. However, the stability for their life is offered at the cost of suppression of their individuality. Her stories suggest that compromise is what characterizes the life of the common run of the middle-class women in India. Hence it causes to

develop the self-withdrawal tendency. However, the author supports the need of surpassing the polarization and attaining the new 'human wholeness.'

The Victorian age, infact was an age of argument, debate and discussions. These debates were about democracy, individualism, nationalism and liberalism education of women. Infact, education become a general concern and the religious teaching in a national system of education was bitterly debated. The dominant temper of the age was intentionally moralistic. That is why a novelist like bronte emphasizes through the conduct of Jane Eyre that virtues like purity, sincerity and mutual respect for male female relationship have a special space in life.

Jane Eyre depicts the hurricanic passion of love and frustration transformed into a passionate and spiritually ennobling tale of an orphan girl, Jane Eyre, who is exploited oppressed and victimized both by the circumstances and as well as the society. The love affair unconventional because Mr. Rochester with whom Jane falls in love is more than twice her age.

So, these novels are a powerful feministic exploration and expression of the theme of elemental love and spiritual enlightenment, in such a way that the character, career and growth of each character in the face of difficulties, humiliations and sufferings get illustrated in their personality. In short, women projected by Shashi Deshpande and Charlotte Bronte in above stories get adapted with the given circled life.

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