



DESHPANDE'S FEMALES AS THE REPRESENTATION OF MODERNITY AND MODERN APPROACHES IN SHASHI DESPANDE'S NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

Deshpande has wonderfully presented the society, its social elements and the state of females by which we can understand what runs in the minds of these females. The youth of the society needs to be more careful as the future generation will make it difficult for them to compete. Her approach has been modern but it doesn't mean that she does not seem to value the tradition and the orthodox approaches at all. These three novels are the best written by the novelist. Her concept of modernity is the freedom of expression in the Independence with which one can live happily. Let us try to look at this by analyzing the aspects that are really amazing. We can get the idea only after discussing this.

Key words: Society, Tradition, Modernity, Freedom.

INTRODUCTION

Empowering women socially, politically, and legally is really a tough task. It is not going to be easy. That does not mean it is impossible. The idea of women empowerment might sound hard. All we need is a concentrated effort focussed in the right direction. The SHG's play a major role in development of women socially and economically. SHG's have been able to mobilize small savings either on weekly or monthly basis from persons who were not expected to have any savings. The basic principles of SHG's are group approach, mutual trust, organisation of small and manageable group. Spirit of thrift, skill training, capacity building and empowerment.

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Shashi Deshpande is the novelist who has created the female characters as the sole representative of the modernity, change and the up-gradation that we can find in our society. Her approach has been modern but it doesn't mean that she does not seem to value the tradition and the orthodox approaches at all. It is quite evident that Sashi Deshpande has been in opposition to the bad and harmful aspects of the culture and tradition otherwise it is fine for her to follow the tradition as long as it doesn't harm anyone. Her concept of modernity is the freedom of expression in the Independence with which one can live happily. She also believes that it is the male of the society who need to change in order to bring what kind of change in our society. Our tradition and culture has always given the chance to males and not to the females if we talk about the authority and control. This problem can be solved but the society needs to give equal importance to the females and give them the chance to be the equal part of this society. Most of her characters are the specimen of this particular aspect as they always want to change the society by their attitudes, their approaches and their acts. As for the females Deshpande thinks that they always have the challenge to be different from that of the other females. It is upon them how they look at themselves and how they feel of themselves.

The case is even worse with the married woman because they have limited chances to prove themselves and to achieve something independently in this patriarchal society. If they continue to be the traditional housewife then it would be difficult for them to attain the freedom they seek. It has been a trend in all of her novels that at the beginning of the novel most of the female characters are domestic, docile and obedient to their male partners but gradually they become aware of their rights, freedom and independence as they feel the need to change their approaches and also to get some respect from the society and its people especially from the males. In doing so they often involved in the conflict with them, the quarrel happens anything naturally the argument will be there with their male partners. They try their label best to break the traditional chains of the society. After all the experience they understand the ways of the world and also get to understand about the realities there are really hard for them to tackle as they become mature and enlightened. One of the scholars Siddhartha Sharma observed that Shashi Deshpande, "...has constructed motifs of patriarchy and oppression by employing the method of negation and affirmation. Her protagonists are victims of Indian patriarchy and her initial submission resists the oppressive situation, thereby reflecting the author's view that a woman must assert herself within marriage to preserve her individuality." (111)

A Matter of Time has been considered as one of the most famous Novels with regard to the feminine consciousness and the way, the different kinds of relationship work together in the society. We have different kinds of relationship in this novel Lekh Gopal and Sumi, Vitthal Rao and Manorama Sumi and Aru and Kalyani and Sumi. all these relationships have been half developed but they are served here the most rewarding things of all. All these females

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belong to the middle class Hindi relationships have been portrayed in quite a different manner to one another. These females are the major focus of this novel. The novel is a very good example of the aspect like feminism along with the feminist approach. This is highly innovative document and the presentation is really good that really binds the readers.

In her other novel entitled 'The dark holds no terror' Sashi Deshpande has beautifully presented the quest of Sarita as she wants to have her own identity and her independence. In order to get this freedom, she first of all has to fight with her brother and then with her husband. Sarita is the one who wants to be successful by any means but feels requires the support of others who can care for her. However it is a difficult task to achieve in our society. She becomes increasingly lonely because no one seems to really care for her. Finally she has realised that she has to be happy from within, fancy doesn't need to find the happiness outside her own self because it can lead her to some mental or physical problems. Her problems have come to an end with this solution that she herself has found.

Deshpande is famous novel that 'Long Silence' is all about the relationship between male and female and the husband and the wife. The entire novel has been told from the perspective of the woman, either it is a woman or a wife. The central character Jaya is the symbol of the modern housewife as she constantly struggles to get her independence, and love from the husband. Like other characters of Deshpande, Jaya too searches for the ideal life and her own identity. The novel is mainly about the gender discrimination that has been prevailing in our society from so long. The protagonist has the audacity to raise her voice against all the evils of the society and all the practices that have been traditional and outdated.

So, Deshpande has wonderfully presented the society, its social elements and the state of females by which we can understand what runs in the minds of these females. The youth of the society needs to be more careful as the future generation will make it difficult for them to compete.

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