



SETHJI BY SHOBHA DE: A CRITIQUE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

Present research paper centers on the evolution of new woman in India. New women presented in the select novel of Shobha De entitled Sethji. Various domains of her growth i.e. social, political, and psychological remain the focus of the present investigation. Shobha De provides complete freedom to her female characters to overcome their difficulties whether they had to sell their souls. The protagonist Amrita life, her predicaments and the passion to achieve the power has been described in this research paper. The situation and condition in her life were so adverse but she accepted the unalterable facts of life confidently. She strives against the ravenous male – dominated society. She breaks down all restricted unlawful boundaries by compromising her virginity with the lustful maneuvers to sethji and assumes her goal to become powerful women.

Keywords: Dark, immoral, constructive, politics, marriage, remarriage, miserable, man – women relationship, lust, womanhood etc.

INTRODUCTION

Shobha De would always have a special place in the history of Indian publishing world for many reasons. Her works have been best sellers for record numbers of years and therefore can be called a writer for the masses. Shobha De can be called a diva, for her career from



being a supermodel to being a renowned journalist has been a fascinating journey. She has written novels under several themes like – feminism, empowerment and the emergence of the new Indian woman and against many social evils.

The paper introduces the protagonist Amrita's skill of handling every situation of life, and controls her life herself in Shobha De's novel *Sethji*. Shobha De's sizzling novel *Sethji* published in 2012 exposes the dark immoral heart of Indian politics. This novel is about ambition, greed and lust. In *Sethji* the power becomes erotic and the protagonist didn't want to lose the battle. Shobha De brings the dark face of politics in front of society. The novelist observes her characters from the society and points them efficiency through her fiction. She uses the brilliant use of Hinglish language to understand the readers fully in the image of the characters and adds humorous effect and charm to her novels. The paper defines the desire of Amrita to achieve the power to protect her from the unkind fate selling the soul.

In *Sethji* Amrita's life is a perfect example of restlessness. Because she struggled from the beginning to end for her survival. She develops her subconscious mind to acknowledge in a positive and constructive way to every problems or difficulties coming in her life. To settle with any relationship she has to boil herself and then to settle it and again adjust with the new one. *Sethji* is the head of Azad Bharat Socialist Party, a crucial coalition partner in the government. He was the first man from their community to emerge as a national figure. He had begun his political career by taking a loan of five lakhs rupees from Amrita's father Seth Jamanlal and thought that adverse situation may also come. The dark secret about him was that there was pinkish leucodema stain on his groin. His daughter –in law Amrita is beautiful, ferocious and imperious. She controlled every aspect of Sethji's life from food on his thali to the favors he doled out. She ruled over Shanti Kutir Sethji's sprawling colonial bungalow. Amrita suffered in her life at each level. In her parental home after her father's death, she had undergone a tragic change. She had noted her mother struggling in her life to meet the ends meet and thought that she will not lead herself in such a miserable situation. In her childhood money becomes an ailment and also a delusion for herself. After few years struggling to keep up appearances her mother remarried to a wealthy Delhi based businessman. Her step father was a good man, good to her and to her mother. After a decade had passed Raghubir Prasad has passed away and in the funeral of her step father she saw her future husband Srichand accompanied by his father Sethji.

Her mother also wanted that she should win Sethji's heart. The circumstances in her life were so adverse but she accepted the unalterable facts of life confidently. Amrita possesses a dusky complexion, dark eyes that invited men to drown in them. She possessed absolute and was ready to face each and every difficulty coming in her way of life. At each phase of her life she had to trigger greater challenges because she knew that success lies on the far side of



failure. Srichand promised her that he will give her a better future, a better life than MK. She listens carefully those words of Srichand and surrenders herself to him affirmatively.

Her husband ate well, slept well, and lived well. He invariably failed at was to fulfill his wife's sexual desires. Srichand also had a defective heart valve. His lungs were too weak to pump enough oxygen. She felt contempt at his uninspiring performance. She became deprived, disappointed and disenchanted at the mockery of her life. Impotency and disharmony of her husband also makes her violent to plunge with extra – marital affairs. Sethji took a fancy on her from the very first sight. Sethji also made a chance to exploit her sexually. Amrita incestuously linked with him as she knows that the power lies with the purse beholder and provided fleshy pleasure to him. Sethji also had started to water and fertilizer the seed in the form of amrita to develop her in politics. She thought of relationship, cherish them, respect and accept his family and desires towards her dreams Amrita used to take care of their sprawling home.

The Babuji's chaotic daaflar and all their crazy schedules. She also planned the hot food in the kitchen for all times. She use to order dhobi to wash and changed the sheets and towels regularly. She felt that everything that was happening to her was taking her towards step by step to attain her goal. Amrita for achieving the power plays a role of obedient Bahu and safeguards the interests of her family parivar. She was greatly affected by the deaths of Srichand were killed. Suraj killed in a car crash. Sethji didn't want that Amrita should live as a widow because he also hates to see her dressing her as widow. As internally Amrita hates him and does not like even his presence but the bad circumstances of life made her to tie with him. She thinks realistically about her life that no man was continuous in her life except the sethji. He was only man who had recognized her potential, encouraged her, pushed her, given her opportunity to make something of herself.

She strives against the ravenous male –dominated society. The laws of Manu suggested that women must be protected, guarded against evil inclinations, they must be respected and honored by father, husband, father –in-law and family males. Amrita achieved the power and position in her life aphrodisiacally .she is the result of post – colonial culture. To achieve her status .she break down all restricted unlawful boundaries by compromising her virginity with the lustful maneuvers to sethji and assumes her goal of becoming golden bird.

Shobha De is a well-known writer who portrayed through the medium of sethji the dark face of politics and the diverse change taking place in the society. It suggests that parents must not overuse or load their power on children to sacrifice their life for their own parental mean and sake as Amrita's mother did to pay back sethji's debts. If her husband had established his own source of income she might had lived with security and safety without going astray. It



concludes that Amrita possess an iron- will , a strong mind , stubbornness , exquisiteness a great passion of power and acquired a top most position as a queen of sethji by ultimate aphrodisiacs despite failing in her own personal life but not acquired secondary position at her love MK. Thus it is very sad about the humanity and the capacious nature of human beings in this country.

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