

## **Existence of woman In Socio-cultural Context in Anita Nair's '*Mistress*'**

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### **Abstract**

Anita Nair's third novel *Mistress* is finest fictional work. In her novel she advocated the relationships of man and woman in the institution of family. She emphasized on the scope for the individual growth i.e. professional career is supportive for family. She put her opinions about changing values morals and ethics and leading ways of family in domestic life. If we take the concern of woman, Anita Nair highlighted personality development talent and caliber etc. which is the demand of modern times. The creative writings of Nair pointed the social conditions and analyze the taboos opposed for women. Secondly Nair pictures the changing ways of relationships between husband and wife. Women are always subjected and force to adjust in every respect, where man fails to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of women. As per the circumstances women are reaching up to the decision of break in relationships. The problems of isolation, alienation and loss of marriage bond and its value, were depicted in the novel. So this paper mirrored the survival of women as an individual in socio cultural context and rejection of dominance for the achievements and creates space for her.

**Keywords-** human relationship, existence, martial, emotional, taboos, husband-wife relationship

### **Introduction and about author**

The female characters in her novel show excessive courage and confidence to deal with the circumstances and situations. The female characters have inferior place mental slavery of male and highest quantity of efforts to maintain male emotions she has stereotype image and devoted for domestic fulfillment, supported for norms of patriarchal domination. Nair herself not claimed as feminist, but she paved the way for liberation of women and tried to give space for women. She depicted every minute details of women heart with her dreams, aspirations and willingness to stand herself for the welfare. The female characters endeavor the suffering in family and social suppression in society. The major issues of Nair novel is discarding the domestic violence barriers and rejection she strongly tried to build professional career.

### **Social Interdiction and Supremacy**

Saadiya was daughter of Haji Najib Msdoof born in very orthodox and conservative family. Sethu an orphan boy from hindu family assist dr., Samuel. When he visited Saadiya family and

saw her beloved at heart first sight love develops among them when Saadiya Family came to know about the relationship of Sethu and Saadiya They refused to continue the lovely relationship and refused the proposal of marriage. Saadiya leaved the religious boundaries and decided to be life partner of Sethu. After spending couple of months as wife of Sethu they are blessed by child. Saadiya wanted to perform ritual of Khitan according to her religion, but Sethu has different view about this ritual and fearful about child's pain. Saadiya has strong belief in her religion and it causes the separation of Saadiya from Sethu . She felt rejected and dejected due to male dominance she was caught in extreme grief and sufferings from the relationship she was deprived from her child's glimpses which were dream of motherly love. She developed psychological disorder and in that she wanted to commit suicide.

Now Sethu was alone and took decision to change his rolling of life he shifted to Shoranur and become property holder He wanted to establish new family He got married with Devyani and enjoyed martial life and have children. He put his child to Sister faith and sent money for the maintenance of child .She looks after the child Koman. After some years she got married. He did not inform about the Koman as his child from his first wife to Devyani .She was shocked by the sudden arrival of Koman at her home. She felt disappointment as she deceived by Sethu. She was suffocated in her married life.

In both cases the women are shown the victims of male power dominance and emotions and accepted the decision taken by male in the family simultaneously the existed social order. Due to differences in their culture and traditions Saadiya was not adjusted with Sethu and he was not willing to go with the wishes of her wife. So she was frosted in her love and relationship for which she sacrificed her parental love and honor. Saadiya was strongly committed to her religion but Sethu did not allow her. Gap in thinking separates them and lovelife ends after a child.

In the family life one should be loyal with the relationship. It is an important aspect of domestic life here Devyani as wife force to take backseat when Koman arrived at home. She was bonded physically, psychologically and emotionally. She played good role of ideal spouse. At last there was no space to her and no scope for emotion in the relationship.

## **Agenda of Liberation**

Angela was student of Koman after Aashan. She had been learning Kathakali for two years She has biracial identity both German and Spanish. As an affectionate teacher, Angela attracts towards Koman and started loving and wanted to be life partner of him. Koman recognized the love and affection of Angela and accepted her love lived as husband –wife without marriage. The Sethu was doubtful about their live in relationship and he was watching the echoes of his life history in the life of Koman living with Koman, Angela changed her perceptions and migrated to London with Koman to gain fame and international reputation/ recognition. Living with some happy moments in new change Koman was disappointed as he was became dependent both

emotionally and economically on Angela. After some days she was divorced from Andela and shifted to India and started his dancing class.

Radha is bold character of the novel Shyam was in love with her and willing to marry and settled his life she was already engaged, even though Shyam was in love with her. At first night Radha told him that she was not virgin but Shyam replied that it does not matter. Shyam was very ambitious and wish to grow his business. In the meantime Radha and Shyam was deprived from child for eight years. Now Shyam became busy with his business and did not provide emotional attachment to Radha. Radha felt isolated and search the companion to share her emotions etc. she met Chris, writer and journalist. She started extra martial affair with him and spend her time with him for the fulfillment of her emotional needs etc.

Angela was ambitious girl and wanted the new existence apart from the limitations so she decided to move for west where she can catch good platform for her art and monetary benefits. Feeling of liberation developed and consciousness about professional career.

In novel Radha is girl born to live free and accepted the circumstances and make way to encounter it. These women are insisting to accomplish with job/ career opportunities and stands themselves independently. Radha presented as symbol of reputation and more than that it is mere sex object. She was engaged with other person and did not felt respect towards Shyam's benevolence to her family in hardships. When he got information about the affair of Radha he felt emotionally insecure and rejected in love. Still he loved Radha.

**Conclusion-** Anita Nair mirrored the various aspects of women in social frame. She has shown the patriarchal system opposed the women for social and economical liberty. In mistress there are number of factors which has the reasons for change in mind and behavior of women. In order to maintain the harmony in relationship women has to compromise her emotions and dreams etc. here circumstances has not allowed the women the most notable thing is that she wanted liberation and desires to taste the individual life therefore we found such mentality in the characters of Radha, Saadiya Devyani and other women in mistress. They have the affairs in that affairs they are not satisfied with it. This novel is written in feminine point of view and documented the sorrows and sufferings of women.

Nair has reflected the women in socio cultural context. Winning right or space for herself should be the aim of women but the boundaries of social threshold does not allows the women. Eventhough she is trying to produce free access to their rights and opportunity for the betterment of future and progression in proper direction.

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