

Inferiority of women in Shashi Deshpande's novel *The Binding Vine*

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Abstract

In recent times the status and position of women is changing. Particularly in developing country like India, The women are shifting themselves towards autonomy self realization and need of independence etc. In Indo English novels the traditional images of women are portrayed they are shown as devoted wife devoted mother, sister daughter etc .The women writers changed the attitude of women towards women and society. The writings are not only depicted the external affairs but also the internal journey of feelings, psychological, stress and distress and feminine sensibilities also. A few women writers like Manju Kapur, Shashi Deshpande ,Anita Desai are very much concerns about the psyche, inner feelings of their women characters that makes infected on account of tensions generated by surroundings. They trying to do good way to present Indian women in their novels with their pen and finds women's need for self independence, individuality. This paper aims to deal with inferiority of women, the theme of alienation, helplessness which are somewhat created by surroundings/society.

Introduction

The Indian fiction is enriched with the writings of women's who paved the way for struggles, conflicts and empowered the position of women in contemporary India which was not suitable in the history of Indian society. We found the reflection in the writings of women's writers trying to explore the psychic moral political social liberations/rights from the existed patriarchial system governed over them. To establish new harmony required changes within relationships and with surrounding. The women writers displayed the domestic social frames with social, cultural modes responsibilities and values which created the images of in Indian society and handover their devoted role to shoulder the more responsibilities duties morally towards every factor which is associated with her. In short stereotyped image changes simultaneously modern, educated self thinking.

Shashi Deshpande is the major voice in the writings of women writers who discarded the traditional ways of describing the events/ stories etc. provided less importance to external life of human being. She has appreciative style of most of the novels are mind provoking she has great art of dealing with women world. In her characters she brings out the feelings of loneliness victims of depression and exploitation and subjection etc. They have subaltern role in the novels she chooses the Indian women of different fields like educational economic etc. Her novels deal with recognition of individuality and realization of freedom. The endings of the novels are linking to revolutionary changes made by characters and joined a

courage to identify wrong and right. Firm decisions are occurred to find out solutions on their own problems. Though some women characters are pictured as well educated modern most striking point is that they are shown weak in their understanding/ handling situations, searching for sympathy but affected restricted from patriarchal dominations and power. They wanted to arise with their potential/ caliber etc. to joint their wrist against social systems/ orders. Her Protagonist are educated well qualified, modern belongs to middle class families. They are isolated and in alienation and stricken to their destiny from male domination and emotionally they are suppressed. Shashi Deshpande did not blaming the male power or their domination, the slavery of women is responsible to ruin themselves and they found refusing to change not so dared to protest against which are becoming obstacles in their way.

About *The Binding Vine* (1993)

In novel *The Binding Vine* (1993) Shashi Deshpande presented middle class female protagonist which has not voice in the male dominated world . It is the story of three/ four sufferings women, which are existed in three different age and time. They are Kalpana , Mira, Urmila ,Akka etc. Kalpana is shown as little bit conscious, Mira has level of dead and Urmi IS full of Spirit a Searching for the meaning of life through the other characters like Mira and Kalpana. Only the difference is that the Kalpana is raped by her own relative and Mira is by her own husband. No doubt the novel is full of women characters having their own meanings/ perceptions of their lives. It made the reasons of their miserable conditions. In the end of novel Inni took the incidents in flashback. She had been come with Urmi as a honest, trusted male servant. Urmi father knew that the girl was accompanied with male servant and had lines of anger on his forehead. After that he sent Urmi to his mother without consulting it with his cruel power of male dominance, that suffered her mother become helpless, victim. Urmi made aware about the pain of separation in which Inni suffered and she bravely faced it for couple of years without single of complaint. She is very upset about her mother and extremely sorry for her mother which was helpless women in powerful male dominated society

Portrayal Of women In *the Binding Vine* (1993)

The novel *Binding Vine* -The five women are presented with different characteristic and generations but all are subjected, exploited with different circumstances. They are Akka, Mira Shakutai Kalpana and Sullu etc. Akka is woman who suffers from her husband. Her husband did not pay much more attention towards his wife as wife. She has impact of Indian tradition /customs; she has no option/ choice and remains silent. She was deprived from her basic right and unable to speak about it. She spent her life like thing put into house and not as human being.

Second woman is Mira an educated upper class middle class woman Mira has to become victim of unnatural uncalled circumstances and her husband love is only physical, nothing to do with emotions affections and care etc. Because of over thinking and with depressed soul her mind developed a fear and she becomes unconscious even in odd times. She suffers in breathless silence, she wrote poems and maintain diaries as an account of life she recorded facts happened with her. She knows English little bit her poems are in Kannada. She does not have a liberty to write specially in language of her own choices from the character of Mira Shashi's characters/ protagonists are passionate about writings which is a matter of self-expression and symbol of liberation . In second category there is Shakutai Kalpana Sullu.

Kalpana sweet girl was brutally raped. After this inhumanly incident, she was not dare to go to police and demand the justice also request the doctor not to disclose it to police or other agencies etc. The criminal of this worse did none other than Prabhakar who is relative of her mother. He is husband of Sullu the Kalpana's view about this terrible matter upset her, but she leaves the decision to Kalpana.

Shakutai is sufferings come with her marriage as her husband was not properly employed. Automatically she becomes bread earner of her family and shouldering the responsibility of two daughters and a son. She is also fearful about her sister Sullu who is not blessed by child after marriage, her husband is drunkard. Shashi Deshpande presented Urmi a caring in nature towards women very conscious about life. She is happy and satisfied in her life. A sudden death of her baby girl not break her courage. She also suffers with helplessness created by her own luck/destiny. But she is very concerns about womens problems .She pours her sympathy towards Shakutai and also for her own mother- in -law Mira who has raped by her husband in nights. Later she published the poems of Mira. She was ready to fight for Kalpana and supported her for his medical treatment. And Kalpana raised her voice against injustice done by her own relative and took support of media like TV channels and printed media. As she advised by Urmi. In this way Urmi strengthen the women like Mira, Shakutai, and Kalpana against wrong unsuitable conditions which are they facing from ages.

Conclusion –

The Shashi Deshpande's women characters are faced subjection by social disorders. The women have positive attitude towards life through surroundings is not suitable for them. Though world is uncaring towards the women, the characters are full of strengths and weaknesses. They learn the harsh realities of life from their own experiences about life. The women characters are depicted with sorrows, sufferings and miserable conditions and part of subjugation. From the writings of Shashi Deshpande's we found that she believes that women should educate and make themselves self reliance and more creative to contribute in the power of

liberty to women. The Deshpande's novels show women's world is more important as they are real founder of society's moral values.

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