

Indian Women Writers in English: An Overview

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the changing trends in Indian writing in English with special reference to Shobha De. During the seventy years of its effective history Indian writing in English crossed many milestones and has come to be finally accepted as a major literature of the world

INTRODUCTION

Indian literary scene has seen a complete change as far as women writings are concerned. It has got quite richer in the span of time. Writers like ShashiDeshpande, Kiran Desai, Anita Desai, Gita Mehta, Shobha De, Gita Hariharan, BharatiMukharjee, Kamala Das, Mahasweta Devi etc have made feministic and women writing popular in the world

The term 'Status' signifies the sum total of the various culturally ascribed roles one has to play and the rights and duties inherent in a social position. Besides the ascribed status, there is also the 'achieved status', which results from one's efforts and personal achievements. The concept of status clearly indicates the placement of individual on the basis of education, occupation, income, perception of one's status, freedom and so on. Considering 'status' in the light of these attributes it is to be noted that the level of status of women varies from country to country the widest difference in levels being between women in developed and developing countries.

Even within a country, the level of status of women differs from rural to urban areas. Taking the case of India, though perennial efforts are made in the awakening and emancipation of Indian women but majority of them are still not aware of their rights, not provided with facilities and opportunities to exercise them. It is said that if you are born and Indian woman, cultivate extra-patience, docility and capacity for suffering. It is not considered a slow, torturous

process, but it is taken for granted that you are born with them along with flesh and blood. Another image apart from this is unimaginable

But slowly the trend is changing and needs to be changed. History has proved that Indian woman is capable of becoming a ruler, good in the administration, a wonderful organizer, and a tough fighter. It's the society that trampled her aspirations. But then a great renaissance is inevitable. She sought to break down the rigid conventions, that restraint her self-development, to accept the challenges with boldness and patience. A tough battle is before her. But she is not disheartened. The change is taking place at a slower pace, till now the struggle is on and will continue for many years till she acquires equality on all bases.

Literature is not only a mirror. It is also a map, a geography of the mind." Literature has always held a faithfully mirror to the society under investigation and men and women are among the subjects of an extraordinary study in literature whether as victors or victims, as protagonist or mere creatures of a plot. Present literature comprises the multitudinous aspects of society, the complex, demanding, and far diverse arrangements that men and women make with one another

Women find literature the most expressive form of art, which is true to women's experience. Women's writing falls as a separate category, which articulates the gender specific concerns of women – feminist viewpoint. Feminism if taken in a wider perspective includes whatever is vital about women in life and literature. Feminism is essentially a

movement primarily directed against the sufferings of women of modeling, and moving on to her high-profile years as a at the hands of heartless, soulless male villains. Feminist is the magazine editor, columnist, social commentator, TV concept of the theory that they are fighting for their rights, scriptwriter and author. In these 'avatars' she keenly observed trying to break from the ideological form. Feminist was and astutely chronicled the new India - brash, affluent and stance or tone of women striving for the recognition of their ambitious. High-society hi-jinks, movie-star follies, celebrity rights and the fight for their identity as individuals in the neuroses - none of these escaped her unsparing eye. In society

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She began a career in journalism in 1970 in the course of which she founded and edited three popular magazines - 'Stardust', 'Society' and 'Celebrity' and was consulting editor to 'Sunday' and 'Megacity'. In 1988 she wrote her first novel - the best-selling 'Socialite Evenings' and, so far, has in all published seven novels. Shobha De has been many things to many people : super model, celebrity journalist and best-selling author of intellectual prose writings and popular novels; friend, rival, colleague and confidante. In her latest publication 'Selective Memory: Stories from my life' (1998, Penguin Books, New Delhi) one comes across her engagingly candid memoir, a woman who has been a familiar face and name to millions (although few know her) and where she finally reveals the true self behind the public persona. Insiders know that despite her commitment to work and the frantic pace of her life, ShobhaDe's first priority in life has always been her family

where she finally reveals the true self behind the public persona. Insiders know that despite her commitment to work and the frantic pace of her life, ShobhaDe's first priority in life has always been her family. ShobhaDe's high voltage career 'happened' in unexpected ways, started with her unplanned entry as a teenager into the glamorous world

in addition to her novel writing, Ms De has also been a model, a film journalist, an editor of magazines and a popular columnist. It is always interesting as well as necessary to take into account the different aspects of writing of any writer because it helps us understand that writer and we can give a better justice to him or her, as the writing is concerned. Though the present research is about the themes, techniques and style of MsDe's novels, to study in brief her other literary aspects would certainly enlighten us to give justice to her. Starting her career as a model, as a film journalist, as an editor of popular magazines and as a columnist, the world of experience of Ms De is quite rich, varied and extremely fascinating. Her novels bring to our notice characters, incidents, episodes of different kinds of men and women who appear to be real but at the same time foggy and rather thin (just noticed and just gone. . . disappearing from the eyesight within a fragment of a second).

Sarat Chandra, in his novels, moulded his women in all their different aspects of love. chastity, tenderness, loyalty, sacrifice and also in the darker shades of nature, in such an attractive palette of dark and bright colours, that the readers found these women characters just irresistible. The works of other male writers cannot be sidelined, as there are many who have portrayed women with a balanced outlook.

A number of women novelists have arrived on the literary scenes, they have set out making new forays into the world of women. The fiction of the nineties is dominated by women writers like Gita Mehta, Shobha De, Gita Hariharan, Anita Desai, Bharati Mukharjee, Kamala Das, Mahasweta Devi etc. among others. Mahasweta Devi, winner of Padmashree and Sahitya Academy Award, is not professedly a feminist. In her novels, the fight is not against male chauvinism, but men

and women fight shoulder to shoulder against a common foe-Kiran Desai have Facebook fan pages and the writers are also the establishment. Her female characters symbolize active in Twitter and Blog. This helps them to know more abundance and motherhood. From the grueling poverty of about the wants of the audience and helps indirect village life, these women emerge as sources of simple interaction. Even books are available on e-reading. Many strength and indomitable rural courage to their men. Some of authors publish excerpts of their books online for encouraging them become legends in their lifetime.

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In the novels of Anita Desai (1937), there is the world of radical female resistance against a defined concept of normally. Women are mostly files quarters. In her psychological novels, she creates an image of suffering women preoccupied with her inner world, her sulking frustration, and the storm within the existential predicament of a woman in a male dominated society. Through her characters, she makes a plea for a better way of living for women. In Cry the Peacock, marital discord drives Maya to the limits of her emotional tether. Monisha in Voices in the City wants to live on a higher plane but her life is spent in endless, meaningless waiting

In the novels of Nayantara Sahgal (1927) the emphasis is non freedom and a new definition of "the virtuous woman". She emphasizes the need of awareness for women. In most of her novels, the heroines are aware of the injustice done to them in their marriage and they walk out of their homes. Nayantara Sahgal projects a new angle of the concept of virtue. The conventional woman suffers quietly, the New Woman is determined to live with self-respect. Her virtue is courage and a willingness to risk the unknown. Most of her characters feel that man is still not fit to be an equal partner.

networking Medias are also helping in marketing. Many authors like Chetan Bhagat, Shobha De, Anita Desai,

sales. Today, the habit of reading is decreasing. So the writers have got to keep up more to the tastes of audience and their fast paced lives. The audience needs maximum entertainment in minimum time and effort. However, the Indian English popular fiction portrays the tastes of Indian writers and hence can be analyzed as a cultural study material.

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