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CONTRIBUTION OF FEMINIST INDIAN WOMEN WRITERS TO ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT:

Women are treated as a helpless part of society since time immemorial. Yes, it is sad to see that they have not had the kind of opportunities that males have enjoyed. In our male-dominated society, women's status has been tragic. As a result, in their lives they have to face more obstacles. Gradually, women understood that they are equal rights & opportunity with men as human beings as well. They have never been taken seriously in the patriarchal social construction, even in area of literature. We have become victims of discrimination against the sexes. That thought gave rise to the Feminism movement. In the 1960s, it gained momentum. The campaign is primarily aimed at achieving equality with men in overall spheres of life in terms of opportunities, freedoms and participation. Growing no. of women writers in their work began to project the plight of women. Freedom and emancipation of women became significant. Mary Wollstonecraft, Elaine Showalter are the leading authors of this field who have created praiseworthy works and need to be listed. We talked frankly about women's plight and issues and redirected attention to women as readers and women as authors. Discrimination against sex has been openly discussed. Not far behind the Indian woman poets, they have expressed their views on the wretched condition of women under male dominance. Today, women writers' importance and plays are known and remembered worldwide. Our talent and ability of being recognized everywhere.



KEYWORDS: Indian Women, Gender Discrimination, Women Writings, Feminism.

INTRODUCTION:

In world of English novel, Indian women authors made significant contribution. In bulk variety and maturity, Indian novel has grown considerably. Indian novel's development follows certain clear trends, and its incremental progression from imitative phase to rational to the psychological stage to investigational phase is not difficult to track. The 1980s occupy a unique position in growth & development of the Indian English novel. Some very talented female novelists have published their 1st works during this time. Also some old masters with works showing that their imaginative powers were intact all the time. In the 1980s, Indian women novelists received unparalleled awards & distinctions not only in India, but also abroad. These Indian women novelists works, like female novelists of the third generation, speak eloquently of their originality & unprecedented inventiveness.

Literature in Indian English is now a fact that cannot be ignored. It has attracted widespread interest in both India and abroad over the past few decades. What started as a "hot-house plant" has now reached a luxurious development, branching off in a number of directions. An idea of true potential

of this type of literature in India can be obtained by contrasting Indians ' early novels with recent arrivals in same literary field.

In Contemporary Literary Scenario, however, Indian writing throughout English enjoys equal status with other countries ' literatures. Indian women authors in particular have made their voice heard in the Indian way around the world, expressing it too artistically. In addition, Indian women writers have also been able to excel in all areas of literature in English in recent times and have achieved global recognition.

The Indian women authors, through their writings in English, articulated the role and status of the woman, illuminated literature with its value and vividness. Yes, it reflected culture, history, & overall variants needed to enrich the literature around the world. Yes, after the USA and UK, India is 3rd largest producer of novels. Although the writings deal deeply with regionalism, universal themes crossed the natural boundaries. India, with so many languages, religions, races and cultures, is land of diversity. That multiplicity offered authors a great opportunity to deal with different topics. Indian women authors ' voice also discussed historical, social, philosophical and much more focused their themes around humanity. It based their themes on sociological, Diasporic aspects, feminine topics, science and technology, and much more.

Indian women have contributed significantly as equivalent to men authors to the global literature. India's contribution was primarily through the Indian writing in English, with novelists at the forefront in this regard. A number of contemporary scene novelists have expressed their creative urge in no other language than English & credited Indian English fiction as a distinguishing force in world fiction. It assimilates the newly confronted circumstances and the nuanced dilemmas of the modern world. The new English novel shows confidence in dealing with new themes and deals with new techniques and approaches to dealing with these themes.

With regard to Indian literature, it may have been easier for these female novelists to reflect the new challenges and changes due to the simple fact that their own vehicle is a globalized language. Once, the new fiction writers are primarily part of the Indian diaspora. Living in the west, they were extensively exposed to major modern Western literary trends such as Post-Modernism and various storytelling techniques such as magic realism. It made it possible for them to give fiction a fresh orientation. At the same time, India's best continues to have strong roots, so they remain true to India's and western parentage points.

It is critical that the spirit of the era is expressed in the fiction of the Indian woman more pervasively and effectively than in other forms such as poetry and drama. The novel is better equipped by its very existence to deal with social reality, whatever it may take to project it. Therefore, it is hardly shocking that the most significant contribution of the time comes from the fiction's Indian women's writings.

Through their writings, the voice of modern Indian women authors, published between the 1980s and 1990s, has contributed to a literary revival as the third generation of Indian writers such as Nayantara Sehgal, Anitha Desai, Arundhati Roy, Shashi Deshpande, Gita Mehta, Bharathi Mukherjee, and Jhumpa Lahiri. These are the leading female novelists of 3rd generation and are central to contemporary literary scenario. Ability to control expression, they have made distinct impression on world literary scene. They have won recognition at national and international level, generous royalties & prestigious awards. [1]

EARLY WOMEN WRITINGS

Abithana Chintamani, first Tamil literature encyclopedia, states that the Awaiyar was little one of more than one female poet who was active in various Tamil literature periods. During the sangam period, i.e. during 1st & 2nd centuries, she lived among them Awaiyar and had a cordial relationship with Tamil chieftains Paari & Athiyaman. In the puranuru, she wrote 59 poems. During reign of the Chola dynasty in 13th century, Awaiyar lived during the Kambar and ottakuttar period. She has written many of poems which are still very popular and inculcated in Tamil Nadu's school textbooks. Her quote "Katrathu Kai Mann Alavu, Kallathathu Ulagalavu" was translated as "What you've learned is a handful;

what you haven't learned is world's size" and displayed at NASA. It should be noted that, while her real name is not clear, the word Awaigar means revered old women or grandmother. Raj Lakshmi Debi's, Hindu Wife or Enchanted Fruit (1876) & Krupabai Sathianandhan's Kamala. [2]

STATE OF WOMEN IN INDIAN LITERATURE

The studies of women in history have been traced so far-now moving on to women as presented in literature, representing women's lives through men's writings, and now and then a few women about whom Annie Besant exclaimed: literature can display no greater typing of womanhood than is found in India's great epic poems. The styles of Indian women sketched in from noble models and written in a few heroic figures by the master hands represent all that is at once the finest, sweetest, loftiest, and most devoted in mankind.

Women in Indian Epic

While great epics such as Ramayana & Mahabharata delineate different noble people, a trace of dichotomy inherent in Indian thinking seemed to remain. Either as a sensual, pagan creature like Surpanaka or as a devoted wife and mother like Sita, this dualism represented women. Indian women are considered to be pictured as caring wife and tender mother and have been celebrated or admired more in India than anywhere else for this performance. All these views are men's views, the way they looked at women. Rarely did these views reflect how women thought or felt about them themselves. They were silent all the time, which is evident from this phrase: "Women and eunuchs are those from whom there is no lecture, no guidance." This assertion shows that a silent majority had been the life-creating second sex. Sporadically, women's voice heard showed they were doomed to remain in the periphery. In Indian literary history, women as authors appeared very late.

Women in Poetry

Despite refusing public presence, Indian history presents how women left their mark in form of poetry from the past, often soft but strong. Women's earliest recorded poetry in India was the sixth-century B.C. Buddhist nuns. Such nuns' poems serve as testaments to joys of these women, to find freedom from drudgery of life. The poems reflect their self-worth ideals that seemed to be fully confirmed by the demands made on their men folk by warfare. Women's writing has become rare as culture has become more patriarchal. A male-dominated society has driven women to the margins, making education less available to them. [3]

FEMINISM IN INDIAN SHORT STORIES

Kamala Satthianandan's publication of Indian Christian Life stories in 1898 marked starting of Indian writers' short story in English. Yet India's short story tradition can be traced back to the 'Panchatantra,' the Jataka Stories, Katha Sariotsagara. When Indian short story came of age in the 1930s, it recognized its value as an art form. Anita Desai-The Indian short story reaches a certain degree of maturity with Desai, particularly in her psychological depiction of inner self. In her short story collection entitled 'Games at Twilight & different Stories' (1978), she pleads for an attitude of moderation & adaptability in virtue of her successful characters to change circumstances.

Looking at the Indo-English literature of the 1970s, it appears that marked increase in contribution of female authors and that there is also a greater awareness, with many critics focusing their attention on literary depiction of problems of Indian modern women, whether mental, emotional, social or economic. Women's literature is concerned solely or overwhelmingly with comprehensive investigations of a more fundamental nature, i.e. common themes such as the clash of cultures, East Vs West, Spirituality Vs Materialism, Indian ideas Vs the Western Externalized goals, etc. Many young female authors tended to express their ideas in a short form of narration. Most of the 1970's authors belonged to the middle class. Life of this class in India seems to offer a woman the opportunity to sit down and write her own stories, the challenge and the material means.

Because of their own traditional role as 'woman in the home' and 'woman in society,' life experience seems to have been much more predictable. Consequently, female writers chose their subjects within the boundaries of the clearly drawn 'women's domain.' The writers of the short story woke up to the problem of conventional images by way of a single experience; a mood or a feeling focused on a moment or moments of revolt. A generation's use of the long narrative form, as it were, is in the midst of working out new perspectives for itself, new approaches to master one's life, and experiences would not meet the requirement of the authors to give adequate expression to these investigations. This is 'wrestling with reality' once again. The use of short story demonstrates, as it was, the 20th-century woman's creation. A female is given primary importance in the stories of women of the 20th century, and her relationship with guy, her husband in many instances, is most affected. In contrast, some stories portray girls and young women's perspectives on the verge of womanhood. [4]

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN WOMEN WRITERS

Pre Independence Era

Women writers appeared gradually in India, beginning with Torulata Dutt (1856-1877), who dealt with Indian womanhood archetypes such as the legendary Sita and Savitri. Pandita Ramabhai Saraswati was praised for her work that laid the groundwork for the liberation of women in India. Her three major works, *Love & Life behind Purdah* (1901), *Sun-Babies in India's child life* (1904) and *Between the Twilight* (1908), make her famous.

Sarojini Naidu, India's Nightingale, although not a novelist, holds a prominent place as a poet in the Indian literary horizon. Women are primarily Indian in sensitivity in most early novels, filled with the traditional feminine attributes of honesty, affection, and resignation. These first-generation writers portrayed women in traditional fashion. Such women's writings appeared to be imitative under influence of famous British authors, while some concentrated on romantic idealization; others wrote with reformist zeal. All in all, with a reformatory spirit and a strong sociological motive, these women writers wrote. Therefore there was no room in their work for frustration, annoyance, or stress, but care and concern for Indian women who were suffering.

Post-Independence Era: First Generation

A spurt of fiction writing by women writers of higher quality and depth was experienced by post-independence India. There was no notable female writer in the period between 1915 and 1950. Consequently, there was gap among post-independence authors and their predecessors of thirty-five years. The second generation of women writers tried to project women as the central figure after a period of three decades and succeeded in addressing more effectively the plight of women. Such women writers have given the portrayal of women in family and culture a distinct dimension. We had described effectively the reactions, responses, issues and perplexities and the intricate workings of their internal selves and their emotional involvement and disruptions.

The Second Generation

Kamala Markandaya and Nayantra Sahgal are among the second-generation female writers in the literary field. Other famous novelists of the present era include Shobha De, Shashi Deshpande, Bharati Mukherji, Gita Hariharan, Rama Mehta, Meena Alexander, Arundhati Roy, Shanta Rama Rau, Namita Gokhale, Uma Vasudev and Jai Nimbkar. A brief summary of the most popular novelists' themes and techniques will give us an idea of current trend in English-language Indian Literature.

To start with, in the literary circle, Kamala Markandaya has secured a firm position. She has been grappling with the subsistence problem. Her books *A Handful of Rice* tackle the plight of the poor whose lives are an endless struggle for life. The conventional relationship with Mother Earth could be found in her novels since the fortunes of these rural characters are related to the fertility and sterility of land & people. Kalpana emphasizes the portrayals of Kamala Markandaya:

Nayantra Sahgal has a reputation as both a journalist and an author. She is credited with six novels and two autobiographies. After independence, she shows an accurate view of India. Jasbir Jain

named Sahgal "one of today's best socio-political novelists." Her embracing public concern, however, is not divorced from humanistic concern. Sahgal is a champion of individual freedom which appears in her novels in various forms. She speaks sensitively about how women suffer in a patriarchal set-up due to sexist bias. She shows the need for a new morality in which a woman is regarded as the equal of a man and the relationship is to be cemented with mutual trust, love and understanding. Chandigarh Wind, Shadow Day, Rich Like us, A Good Time. Nayantra Sahgal performs a close and insightful analysis of the sufferings of elite-class women and demonstrates how they refuse to remain bound to the subordinate positions they are given, trying to defy traditional norms in pursuit of emancipation.

Bharathi Mukherjee and Gita Hariharan discuss the moral dilemma that women face, in their works. Rama Mehta and Meena Alexander are known for realistic portrayals and authentic sociological study. Shobha De is known for her frank narration of incidents, her focus being the elite women of India. Arundhati Roy joins the above group in the truthful portrayal of the plight of women in society & their marathon struggle for seeking the sense of 'identity' in a male dominated conservative frame. Through their plays, Bharathi Mukherjee and Gita Hariharan address the moral dilemma faced by women. Realistic portrayals and objective sociological research were credited to Rama Mehta and Meena Alexander. Shobha De is known for her truthful incident analysis, her focus being on India's elite women. Arundhati Roy joins the above party in the honest depiction of women's plight in society and their marathon struggle in a male-dominated conservative system to pursue the meaning of 'identity' work. [5]

AMBIVALENT RELATIONSHIPS OF WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT IN INDIAN FICTION BY WOMEN

One explanation why women writers in this genre are often ignored and not taken seriously is the emphasis on the personal and the private. Markandya's Nectar in a Sieve and Desai's Fire on the Mountain both reflect the darker shades of nature as well as the parallel mixture of the women's darker aspects. Since nature is unpredictable and there is a drought in Markandya's book, Rukmini and her family are almost starving to death. Although Rukmini embraces her lot, her daughter Ira is forced into prostitution because of their dire financial situation. Throughout Desai's book, Ila Das's rape is carried out mercilessly in the darkness of the fields which are meant to sustain life. The atrocities that women suffer in Desai's novel culminate in Raka, which ultimately set the forest on fire. [6]

LITERATURE SURVEY

Dr. S. Bharathiet.al. [2019] This research is to examine Indian women's success in writing from the very beginning of their development and to sense the glitches they face. From the beginning until the contemporary authors are discussed the themes of sexuality and man-woman relationship which became the theme of writing this paper. But they are not only used as the raw material, and each of them has embraced different angles and given inimitable solutions. Their insightful treatment of women's issues shows their sensitivity as a female writer, and this quality affirms their work as an exemplary contribution to English-language Indian literature to prove their unique character. [7]

Zuha Moideen [2019] Since an instrumentalization of feminist theory takes place in these books, much of the critical literature describe chick lit as post-feminist texts. This paper explores whether Indian chick lit directly or indirectly supports postfeminist views and as such could be named. The paper looks at the problem of the nomenclature "Indian chick lit," followed by a discussion of its post-colonial identity and how consumerism, a staple of chick lit, is addressed in the genre. It claims that humor, argued as a subversive tool, is revealed as a concealing mechanism that serves to obscure the fact that the genre creates and strengthens suitable femininities. Feminist issues are glossed over within the complexities of gratification and escape offered by the Indian chick lit genre, and significance is attached to the plot's resolution of the socio-cultural concerns raised. [8]

Upendra Kumar et. al. [2018] Several feminist writers who contributed to the society's literature wrote chivalric novels. Most of their novels are based on women's characters and the beauty of women in the world. Feminist women writers continue to strive in their works as poetry and novels to defend women's rights. Anita Nair is an Indian novel and poetry bestseller. She always had a desire to

read and the bravery in all circumstances to try it. Nair is concerned with the many roles women play in their lives, and this is also expressed in her work. With great energy, she writes and produces wonderful works at ease. Ladies coupe and Mistress are picked for this paper from Anita Nair's novels. Through these novels Anita Nair has signaled the arrival of a sensitive author who can perceive deeper complexities in the personalities of people and take the reader on a wonderful exploration journey. Such novels have the ability to taste the island world. In these pages I will try to appreciate the forces of Anita Nair to delineate the deeper layers of the character of the girl. [9]

Dr. Tanu Kashyap [2018] Aspirations and dreams are not always fulfilled... relationships are not always successful and the romantic atmosphere of the fairy tale does not always fulfill this is the harsh reality that emerges in the novel "When I Reach You: Or, A Portrait of the Author as a Young Woman" and "The Gypsy Goddess" by Meena Kandasamy. We are speaking about ecofeminism, radical feminism and eco-centrism in the contemporary scenario. Indian women writers have raised their grievances over the past five decades against a variety of massacres and gender inequalities that have brought them into being. This paper delves into the suffering issues of the contemporary Indian woman of the twenty-first century who is always considered to be nothing but a woman. She has no right in her personal or political domain to stand up against marital rape, abuse, violation of her fundamental rights. This research paper will try to find answers to these poignant issues that the contemporary Indian society has been puzzled by. [10]

Dr. S. Henry Kishore [2017] Modern Indian women maintain the fundamental positions in the midst of apparent change. The patriarchal Indian society is looking (down) at women and straitjacketed positions, even up to 300 B.C. in the early Vedic period. Women have been held in reverence and esteem. They broke out of an irksome domestic routine partnership in the fifth century and embraced self-expression. Manusmrti established a woman's proper social role, perpetuating her dependent role. Women have become outcasts in the medieval period. The age of Moghul brought women to the lowest ebb. British Raj, the sleeping country was awakened from its stupor in the nineteenth century. Indian epics delineate various noble people. Women writers in the pre-independence period gradually appeared. A spurt of writing by women writers of higher quality and depth was experienced by post-independence India. Post-colonial and feminist theories reflect the influence of their plays. [11]

Dr. Racheti Anne Margaret et.al. [2016] The Indian women writers who for two major reasons shared their views and pain in the post-colonial times through their writings. Next, it was possible to see both patriarchy and capitalism exercising different forms of control over those who are their subordinates. Because of this, it was necessary for women's experiences under patriarchal influence to come out to the forefront and reveal the extreme brutality that men held against them. Furthermore, critics argued that for women and for men, imperialism worked quite differently. This is because women are subject to both general discrimination as subjects ' colonial toys and specific discrimination as women who are addressed as "double colonization." [12]

Dr. Venkateswarlu Yesapogu et.al. [2016] For two major reasons, feminist writings have been of critical importance to the post-colonial debate. Next, it was possible to see both patriarchy and capitalism exercising different forms of control over those who are their subordinates.

The feminist writers, however, tried to stamp their authority as best they could in a male-dominated environment. It was a very difficult path, because women had to break through years of male dominance, tabulations, and prejudices that had impregnated society heavily. Furthermore, critics argued that for women and for men, imperialism worked quite differently. This was because women were subjected as colonial subjects to both general discrimination and direct discrimination as they were treated as ' double colonization'. [13]

Patrika Handique [2015] Patriarchy is delineated as the kind of society in which males hold the supreme authority. Because of such a social system, the two biological sexes retain a form of dominance and supremacy. It is established, however, that such a process is not a biological creation but a social one. In patriarchy, women are perceived with no feelings through the lens of being a mere sexual object. In various fields and phases, they have to undergo a lot of misery and exploitation. This paper is an effort to examine the attempt by Ruskin Bond to describe such a patriarchal system which he

undoubtedly experiences with critical eyes. When you look at it minutely, you will find traces of feminine suffering depicted inhabited. [14]

CONCLUSION

Indian women writers in English expressing the realities of Indian fact in the current Indian literary scenario. In the literature universe, they carry many obligations. They conduct as anthropologists, sociologists, novelists, essayists, travel authors, educators and move into global duty to create peace as ambassadors with admirable aplomb. We exceeded the international literary standards set by men and women post-colonial and post-modern authors such as Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, Vikram Chandra, Sashi Tharoor, and Arundhati Roy, etc. These have become the colossal central socio-literary figures, drawing global attention to the substantial work bodies. We have also become the only negotiators to mediate India and other colonized nations' key social and cultural problems. All of their major works have enjoyed considerable scholarly attention throughout the globe, attracting and generating a great deal of literary criticism, especially about feminism. They built a large readership and strong critical support that represents serious academics and scholars' interest. Both post-colonial and post-modern predicaments are battled to show a high degree of self-awareness that continues to challenge the political, theoretical, cultural issues of rape and sexual harassment of innocent women in contemporary Indian society. Our studies have prompted with populism the rise of feminism criticism. Their intellectual insights, conceptual, theoretical and textual experiments involved the complex colonial and postcolonial situations and interpreted them.

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