

Women's Perspective in the Novel of Sashi Desh Pandey

Warisha Afifa
Manav Rachna University, India

Abstract:- From ancient time women were suffering from domination by males and even in Indian society at many different places women are still facing domination by males . There are many rules and regulations especially meant to be followed by women . The concept of gender discrimination has running from ancient time in our society . A women is known as a mother , a sister , a daughter and a wife and they are still restricted to follow the steps of men. Women has never been considered as head of the family and are not allowed to any decisions and also not allowed to raise their voice .

Women always have to take permission from a male head of a family to go outside and to take decision for their studies . The 20th and 21st century is known as the independence of a women . many young philosophers and writers reflects their thoughts for the women 's right . Many writers , poets , intellectuals , authors have raised their voice to support the women and their rights . All these people want to provide equal level to women as men.

Keywords:- Patriarchy ,Women, Society, Discrimination, Superiority, Relationships, Health Issues, Dilemma.

I. INTRODUCTION

Shashi Deshpande is a popular writer in India. She was born on 19 august 1938 in Dharwad district in Karnataka. She published her work of short stories in 1978 and her first novel in 1980 'The Dark Holds No Terror'. She was educated in Mumbai and Banglore. She did her education in law and economics.

According to Deshpande Feminism came from the consciousness of the unfair ways women were treated. She says her writing, to a large extent, was ignited by the thought of what is to be a woman in our society. She talks of women and their issues in daily life. Her writing though address issues that are left unsaid in society, like marital rape, unfair treatment, rape culture and the shame attached to it.

She always spoke in Marathi with her kids, as her mother always did the same. Jane Austen is one of her favourite authors. She won the Sahitya Akademi award for her novel "That Long Silence" in 1990.

Deshpande's novel the Shadow Play was shortlisted for Hindu Literary Prize in 2014. She has been awarded the Padma Shri in 2009.

SASHI DESHPANDEY has shown the unique side of Indian women whose rights as an individuals are axed by the male dominant society and they don't have their self identity . she also showed the modern educated middle class Indian women would like to achieve their own identity and restore the rights . In her novel she depicted the female protagonists always tangled in several complexities of relationships and marital life . Girls are quite a portion of the society and the family so what they think ,feel ,believe matters .

In the famous novel of SASHI DESH PANDEY " THE LONG SILENCE " we discover that how she portrayed the women in her novel . In this novel she represented a main protagonist Jaya who belongs to middle class family and she was very curious , smart, clever and a bright girl in her family . only her father encourages her to pursue her dreams and her grandmother always says to stay quite and focus on household chores so that she can find herself a good husband .Her grandmother always taught her to be civilized as cultured girls are skilled at cooking, cleaning and labor only these things will be useful to you.

On the other hand Jaya was a person who likes to have her own individuality she likes to write in her free time wanted to become author but failed to do so and she also has become aware that people don't like when she talks about herself like her opinions so she learned to keep it secret.

She completed her education and married to a successful businessman named Mohan she was unhappy with her married life as they never come on common points. She used to feel suffocated ,not able to express her point of view her husband expects her to follow his steps without any questioning.

After sometimes Mohan got suspended from the job ,To support her family she started writing articles and also mention's about her dissatisfaction from her married life though Mohan was not happy with her writings and leaves the house.

In the end Mohan sends a telegram to Jaya saying that he will be home soon. In addition, his job is willing to take him back. Jaya is ready to accept Mohan back into her life, and she vows that never again will she let the long silence separate them emotionally from each other.

Shashi Deshpande in her novel "The Dark Holds No Terrors" is portrayed by the protagonist Sarita. explores and exposes psyche of her female protagonist imprisoned within

the four walls of house and stuck between tradition and modernity.

Sarita is 'two-in-one woman' who in the daytime is a successful doctor and at night 'a terrified trapped animal' in the hands of her husband Manohar. In reality she is unable to bear the sexual aggression of her husband. She shared her trauma with her father. She has a better understanding of herself and the others and this gives her the courage to confront the reality.

In this we saw a man in the male-dominating society, which as a result eventually nudges a woman for identity crises and she suffers at the hands of disparity. she realizes that for male domination women too are responsible as in her case her mother was spiteful to her, this clearly shows the gender discrimination played by women which ultimately sets the preface for male domination.

When she moves out of her maternal home, she not only becomes financial independent but also marries a person of her choice.

II. ANALYSIS

In the "THE LONG SILENCE" Jaya was a main protagonist who belongs to middle class family and she was very curious, smart, clever and a bright girl in her family. Only her father encourages her to pursue her dreams and her grandmother always says to stay quiet and focus on household chores so that she can find herself a good husband. Her grandmother always taught her to be civilized as cultured girls are skilled at cooking, cleaning and labor only these things will be useful to you. But she was a person who likes to have her own individuality.

The another novel "The Dark Holds No Terrors" Shashi Deshpande explores and exposes psyche of her female protagonist imprisoned within the four walls of house and stuck between tradition and modernity.

In this novel Sarita was protagonist but represented as 'two-in-one woman' who in the daytime is a successful doctor and at night 'a terrified trapped animal' in the hands of her husband Manohar.

She has a better understanding of herself and the others and this gives her the courage to confront the reality.

Quotations: In any case, whatever my feelings had been then, I had never spoken of them to him. In fact, we had never spoken of sex at all. It had been as if the experience was erased each time after it happened, it never existed in words. The only words between us had been his question, 'Did I hurt you?' and my answer, 'No' (That Long Silence: 95.).

A wife must always be a few feet behind her husband. If he's an MA, you should be a BA. If he's 5'4" tall, you shouldn't be more than 5'3". If he's earning five hundred rupees, you should never earn more than four hundred and

ninety-nine rupees. That's the only rule to follow if you want a happy marriage. (The Dark Holds NoTerror, P.137).

As we seen above these novels talks about the males superiority signifies the patriarchal culture in the family relationship like Jaya and Mohan, Sarita and Manohar (husband).

III. CONCLUSION

Women's are considered as victims of generations in which they are conditioned not to questioned males. In patriarchal society fathers, brothers and husband has given the role to guide and always mentor the women. Traditionally the husbands has given the equal level to god. In Indian marriages women has to obey the commands of her husbands without any questioned because in Indian marriages it is not enough for the males to be approved and admired. He enacts violence, power, unyielding resolutions to show their superiority.

SASHI DESHPANDEY depicts how a woman's existence is confined within domesticity and how all forms of oppression perpetuated on her are convincingly rationalized generating a closed-minds syndrome. The chains of traditional marriages are heavy. In the absence of any escape routes, wives often seek consolation in obsession, or mental slavery leading to physical decay, disease and death. The social ethos which has seen to the continuity of women's suppression.

Most of such work centres on the upper middle class urban society, it is considered that with better exposure to education and vocational opportunities the middle-class woman is learning to be more vocal and assertive about her rights. Enhanced economic prosperity and nuclear family pattern have liberated her from the clutches of the "cruel family", and she is free to manage her household as she wishes.

REFERENCES

- [1]. **The long Silence:** Novel
- [2]. Deshpande, Shashi. That Long Silence. New Delhi: Penguin, 2018
- [3]. <https://www.redalyc.org/journal/7038/703873575007/html/>
- [4]. **The Dark holds no terror:** Novel
- [5]. Dr. C. Ramya (2020). Asst. Professor, Department of English, ISSN 1930-2940 Vol. 20:7 July 2020 on "Saru in Shashi Deshpande's The Dark Holds No Terrors"
- [6]. Deshpande, Shashi : The Dark Holds No Terrors. Vikas Publishing House, Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, 1980, Page No 17.