

**PORTRAYING SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN WOMEN WRITERS IN  
ENGLISH LITERATURE****<sup>1</sup>ADEPU PRIYANKA**

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**ABSTRACT**

In the nineteenth century, English education was introduced to India as an ideological force driving social change and control. Writing in English did not begin on a single day in India, and it took many years and numerous significant persons to bring Indian English literature to its current prominence and distinct place among world literature. Indian women writing in English are becoming acknowledged as a key contemporary literary trend in English. The fact that Indian authors in English are writing in English rather than their native tongue contributes to the transcultural nature of their writings. Indian women authors are mostly concerned with the male ego and the feminine longing for independence. Women writers use their work to challenge male domination over them. In a male-dominated culture, Indian women authors express the injustices, misery, and despair they experienced. Many of the texts might be interpreted as a revolt against the constraints imposed by society on women. They are attempting to bring forth the feminine identity via their works in this man-centered culture. In this essay, we will discuss the significance of women in English literature.

**Keywords:** Feminism, Literature, Society, Freedom, English

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Indians' attitudes changed dramatically as a result of English instruction. A young Indian with a good education will be able to read, write, and speak English well. It had a significant influence on India's social, political, and religious life. During the Victorian era, women authors rose to prominence in England. Females were denied the privilege to learn in ancient times. When women were educated, they began to voice their own point of view, and female writing evolved as a social movement to combat political, economic, and social cultural prejudice. It quickly grew into a well-organized movement. There is no question that modern women are educated, confident, and have demonstrated their abilities in every sector. According to an article in, she is still doing so "The Times of India" (01 March 2008): "Women perform two-thirds of the labor, but receive barely one-tenth of the revenue and possess less than one percent of the world's property." They are among the poorest people in the planet."

Women are inherently creative by nature. India is a patriarchal culture in which men have a much higher position than women. It is difficult to accomplish anything unusual and smart in such a circumstance. Indian women authors' contributions are valued across all literary genres. Through their works, women authors attempt to communicate prejudice, dissatisfaction, and agony. Each of these women writers' writings goes beyond all gender ideas and reacts to them. Their writing expresses the desire for liberty and the dismantling of all tyrannical powers. They have portrayed a real woman who is caught between her own ambitions and the suffocating powers of patriarchy.

Jumpha Lahari, Manju Kapoor, Kiran Desai, and Arundhati Roy have also authored books of Magic Realism, Social Realism, and Regional Writing, and have profited from the increased attention that this fiction has gotten through National and International prizes. They have enquired into human interactions since the current situation is strongly related to the mind and heart, and the crusade is

against long-established structures. Women authors have taken on this monumental duty in order to make the process of transformation easy and meaningful.

## **II. IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S WRITING IN LITERATURE**

Women have important roles in our society from the time they are born till the time they pass away. Despite being a vital cog in the contemporary society, women are nonetheless written off as weak since males are still often seen as the most powerful gender. Women's lives remain more complicated than men's despite the government's many efforts to raise awareness and implement new laws and policies. As a daughter, sister, daughter-in-law, granddaughter, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, etc., she is responsible for her own well-being as well as the well-being of her family. She is able to come out and do her part to ensure a better future for herself, her loved ones, and her nation despite the responsibilities she has at home. In spite of the fact that a lot of work and time went into this.

Although it is true that women's literature is classified by publishers as works written by women, many academics view this definition to be too narrow. As a relatively young field of study, the study of women's literary history piques curiosity for a number of reasons. Because of women's historically subordinate status in male-dominated societies, their literary contributions have been mostly disregarded. The continued prevalence of literary courses and anthologies in which women's contributions are marginalized or ignored is counterproductive. Thus, women's literature has the responsibility of categorizing and creating a field of study for a group of people marginalized by history, and then using that field to investigate, through the writings of those women, what it was like to live in such a distinct sociopolitical position within their respective cultures.

Women's writing in India dates back over 2600 years, but it truly got its start when women began challenging the stereotypes of women perpetuated by male authors. As a result of patriarchal values that relied on maintaining sexual inequity between the sexes, men constructed women from their perspective before women became a significant literary force. Women's literature takes form when doors open for more authors and writers of fiction to contribute to the canon. It's high time for the literary community to stop treating women authors as if they belong in a separate category, writing only about women and concerned with expressing their anguish, distress, concern, and anger about their plight. Instead, they should be recognized as writers of, for, and by humanity who address pressing issues such as climate change, gender inequality, human rights, racism, and violence.

## **III. WOMEN IN SEARCH OF GREATER AUTONOMY AND FREEDOM**

Several significant shifts in women's private and professional spheres were initiated as a result of the influence of English Literature as represented in the regional literatures of the subcontinent. Several prominent Indian women writers wrote extensively in English; they include Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, and Shashi Deshpande. Their works contributed to the establishment of feminism in India. Strong emancipatory literature by women such as Kamala Das (Malayalam, English), Krishna Sobti (Hindi), Ashapura Devi (Bengali), Rajam Krishnan (Tamil), and others has emerged across all Indian languages, with the aim of challenging the patriarchal status quo. Many authors are now working to establish a norm for resolving issues within the context of indigenous systems. English is no longer a colonial language; instead, its authors freely express their own histories, complexities, and individuality. Feminism is a political and social movement that challenges the subordination of women in society. Because Indian society has traditionally been so hierarchical, feminism in India has a different dispensation than in the West. Hierarchies of age, sex, ordinal rank, friendliness, and fineness inside the family, and of caste lineage, education, employment, and association with the governing authority within the society, have all been strictly enforced. There have

been three "waves" in the recognition of modern Western feminist movements in India. The feminist problems that define each wave are examined from new angles.

#### **IV. EMERGING NEW WOMEN IN MODERN INDIAN ENGLISH FICTION**

The next generation of women in the celebrity many of today's female authors portray strong, independent women who challenge sexual norms and are financially independent. They reject the conventional view of marriage, to put it another way. Literature has always been a strong tool for expressing the author's thoughts, feelings, and opinions, and as a result, it has been a wonderful source of healing for any culture. The English literature that originated in India was seen as a novelty at first, but its legitimacy has yet to be established on a global scale. A novel is a work of fiction in which the author uses both imagination and intelligence to represent some aspect of life via the medium of a tale. It cares more about the sex life than about romance or excitement.

Indian women authors ushered in a new era that promised women in India more agencies in public life. They have established themselves as a noteworthy group by using the book a tool for social change. The challenges and issues that modern women face tend to be of particular importance to Indian writers, and to women writers in particular. Some contemporary Indian authors writing in English examine the emotional and social pressures women face in contemporary Indian society.

As feminism gained momentum in continental Europe, it provided women with new outlets for expressing their emotions. She discovered a platform from which to pitch her vision of the world through the English-language novels written by Indian women authors. "Woman's struggle, in the context of contemporary Indian society, to find and preserve her identity as wife mother and most important of all, as human is Shashi Deshpande's major concern as a creative writer, and this appears in all her important stories," as GS. Amur so eloquently puts it, sums up the experience of modern women.

#### **V. WOMEN WRITERS IN INDIA**

In this article, we will take a look at some of India's most celebrated female authors.:

- **Arundhati Roy**

'The God of Small Things,' written by Arundhati Roy, is arguably the most well-known work in Indian literature. The story explores the profound impact that seemingly little everyday occurrences may have on people's lives.

Her book "The Algebra of Infinite Justice," a collection of essays, was granted the Sahitya Academy Award in 2006, but she declined to accept the honor despite being one of the best-selling books of all time and the winner of the 1997 Booker Prize for fiction.

- **Anita Desai**

At least three times, Anita Desai has been nominated for the Booker Prize, making her one of India's most acclaimed authors. In 1978, her novel "Fire on the Mountain" won the coveted Sahitya Academy Award, and in 2014, she was awarded the Padma Bhushan for her contributions to Indian literature.

It's not only that her stories are funny; they also have an outstanding consequence that really gets to the heart of people. The author's book "The Village by the Sea" also took home the British Guardian Prize.

- **Jhumpa Lahiri**

Jhumpa Lahiri's novels, which often include non-resident Indian (NRI) protagonists, immigration challenges, and the difficulties of life abroad, have garnered her widespread recognition throughout the world. Her writing is straightforward and allegorical, focused on the subtleties and hidden tragedies of everyday life. Film adaptation of Mira Nair's debut novel, *The Namesake*, was released in

2006. Both the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Award for Fiction were up for grabs with her novel *The Lowland* in 2013.

- **Kiran Desai**

Kiran Desai's "The Inheritance of Loss" is a well-known novel on the hardships of migration and dual citizenship. Her essays, notably 'Make it In America,' strike a chord with readers.

- **Shashi Deshpande**

'That Long Silence' by Shashi Deshpande, an Indian author who has won several awards, is her most well-known work. She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2009 and the Sahitya Akademi Prize for her work *That Long Silence* in 1990.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Writers who are Indian women and write in English and who accurately portray modern India are becoming important figures. When it comes to literature, they have a lot of weight on their shoulders. They carry out their duties as anthropologists, sociologists, novelists, essayists, travel writers, educators, and ambassadors with elegance. Therefore, the writers who deserve the most praise are the women who have made significant contributions to the field. They explore new territory thematically, stylistically, and in terms of the questions of caste, class, gender, identity, and individuality that they pose. Thus, Indian women writers have made significant contributions to the English translation of Indian novels.

In order to examine the profound connection between women's growth and the culture that created them, women authors focused on the mundane minutiae of women's life. Women in regionalism developed a harmonious and utopian understanding of the countryside because they saw themselves and their experiences mirrored there. Realist books frequently featured female protagonists who were abandoned in urban settings, their destinies left to the vagaries of capitalism and patriarchal authority. Romantic and domestic storylines were frequently employed by women writers of regionalism and realism to explain not just the place of women in the home, but also their place in society at large.

Writers made an effort to be impartial in their depiction of reality, and the resulting works generally centered on the minutiae of regular life. This civilization produced a generation of pampered, sheltered women at the beginning of the century who know little of the outside world. Many authors argue that society has devalued women by seeing them as ornaments, but they also show women destroying themselves by agreeing with that description.

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