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FEMALE CHARACTERS REPRESENTATION IN INDIAN LITERATURE

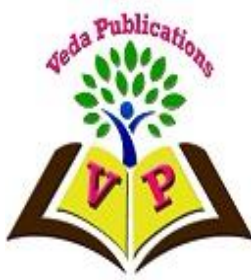
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ABSTRACT



A woman is a sunrise of light where all the dimness vanishes. She is the sun that illuminates everybody and observed the capacity to disappear all the dread that fills in dimness of psyche. Women are basically beginning of life. The lady reinforces the underpinning of family as a mother. Little girl, sister and spouse accepting everybody with the ultimate

Literature is considered as the truth of society characterized in words. It portrays the manner in which cultural creatures respect, comprehend or decipher different circumstances and things either doily existence. The following paper highlight the transformation of women from the Vedic ages to the contemporary Era.

Keywords: *Literature, Representation of women, Society, Disappointments, Self-esteem and Awareness.*

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INTRODUCTION

History of Literature has been and noticed the job of women being advanced through centuries. The expression of women of yesterday has been exceptionally critical, disdainful, reprimands which they have taken care of with balance and persistence. Women are basically the beginning of life. Nobody can give occasion to feel qualms about the significance of ladies that they are a definitive makers of this very presence.

In a patriarchal society, women are relied upon to be extremely quite overall. They build up specific examples of life for her much before she ventures into the world by forming positive particulars, what's more the connection of cynicism with the components like childishness, sentimentalism, aloofness and madness cause extraordinary harm to the lady's notoriety, evaluation of her personality and progress. Indeed even inside the circle of ladies, the division is set up through the characterization, for example, spouse or temptress, optimal lady or whose wife or female fatale to win the reverence of society, ladies need to have a place with the specific groupings and spouse, mother or an ideal lady who is dedicated caring and conciliatory like Sita Devi (Ramayana) and Draupadi (Mahabharata).

A woman is a dawn of light where all the darkness disappears. She is the sun that

enlightens everyone and she holds the ability to vanish all the fear that grows in darkness of mind. Women are essentially the origin of life women and literature are closely related to each other because it requires a lot of artistic creativity to be good at literature and women are too good when it comes to artistic creativity.

STATUS OF WOMEN AT PRESENT AND PAST

The status of women is slowly changing in recent years. We can see a slow and steady rise of women in all fields of importance. Women of today are not just restricted to cooking and taking care of their comfort zones to create their own images in the outside world as well. This is in short, can be termed as women empowerment.

Society has how changed its stand and the way it looks at women, due to the progress achieved by women in all spheres of life. Yet we hear many cases of harassment against women. The women have completely transformed in the modern day, the urban women specially has changed from being a mere homemaker to the modern day multitasking women, handling responsibility without fear.

Women had taken on the world with confidence. This is the scene in the most of the urban households today. Modern day women are independent, takes right decisions boldly, stands up for their rights and walks the path of



success. Kalpana Chawla, Aishwarya Rai, Susmitha Sen and many more women achievers are a prime examples. The women in rural backgrounds have still to complete a lot of terms of their urban counterparts. Not that the rural women are backward in any aspects, but the change and transformation that the urban women sees is definitely a little slower to the rural women.

In early times, the status of women in India was inferior to man in the practical life. However, they had a higher status in scriptures. They are considered as the perfect homemaker in the world. Indian women are completely devoted to their families. They are preached in the name of Saraswathi, Durga, Parvathi and Kali.

As per the last census carries out by the Government of India, there are 933 females for every 1000 males in our country. We can find superiority of men to every phase of our lives. Traditionally, women were considered to be caretakers of home. There were women in order days too, who were well educated and led paths of success in many spheres of life, because of support from their families.

Female Characters Representation in Indian Literature

Top 10 female Authors from India

- Jumba Lahari

- Anitha Desai
- Arundhati Roy
- Kiran Desai
- Nikita Lalwani
- Indu Sundaresan
- Chitra Banerjee
- Anuja Chauhan

The changes and flexibility in gender roles which are being evident today has its roots in the changing social structure. Economic factors, advancement in sciences and changed value system have contributed to a preference for a nuclear family thus doing away with the concept of joint family.

Gender inequality started in the late 1970s that women began mobilizing around issues of gender, violence, such as “rape, dowry deaths, wife-beating, sati, female-neglect” resulting in differential mortality rates and more recently, female feticides.

WOMEN'S RIGHT IN INDIA

The Indian contribution prohibits discrimination based on set and empowers the government to undertake special measures for them – Women's rights under the contribution of India mainly include equality, dignity and freedom from discrimination; additionally, India has various structures governing the rights of women.



WOMEN CHARACTERS IN THE SELECT PLAYS OF GIRISH KARNAD AND VIJAY TENDULKAR

Girish Karnad and Vijay Tendulkar are prominent Indian playwrights. They have been instrumental in the development of their regional theatres. (Kannada and Marathi respectively). Women characters play an important role in their plays. Karnad leans towards mythology to build his unconventional women characters who are bold and open about their feelings and psyche. Whereas Tendulkar looks at the contemporary society to built women characters who are objectified and are victims of the patriarchal society. Both the writers have made a conscious attempts to reflect upon the feminist ideology of feeling women from the bondages of the patriarchal society. Their women characters are from different backgrounds and ages, and play different roles, struggling to find their own identity.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN R.K NARAYAN NOVELS

R.K Narayan's portrayal of women characters, shows a typical Indianness. Many critics have branded R.K Narayan's women characters as 'insignificant beings'. In "The Dark Room" Savitri, a docile lady expresses her righteous anger by quitting her husband's house. Ramani, Savitri's husband is infatuated by Shanta Bhai, a colleague of his and neglects his wife Savitri. Narayan presents the two

contrasting women Savitri and Shanta Bhai react in different ways to the same situation. Though Savitri's hopes and frustrations are truthful portrayal of a typical Indian women, her utterances echo the revolutionary voice of the rising.

Womenhood, Susila in the English Teacher is the major women character. She is the wife of Krishnan who teaches English Literature in Albert Mission College in Malgudi. The man-women relationship between Susila and Krishnan is emotionally deep rises in "The hinde (1958).

R.K Narayan's women Character discover their identity in the middle class society. They posses the toughness, adventurousness and courage to manage their affairs by themselves. They are against the legacy of orthodoxy and conservatism, R.K Narayan in his novels waiting for the Mahatma and the painter of signs defines the concept of new women. In the gallery of women characters portrayed in the novels of R.K Narayan, we encounter different faces of women. Sometimes they submit themselves to the dominant discourse for substantiation, and sometimes they favour inner corroboration in search of their free selvee.

In Anitha Desai's 'Cry the Peacock' the character of Maya Women's activist discernment challenges a general public that



underestimates ladies and anticipates that they should understand that their socialization and not delegate. Maya is fighting confirm her own qualifies and self-esteem, while considering on the bigger issue of what shapes a fair world, one that acknowledges her esteems.

CONCLUSION

Journalists started expounding on the though ladies in their works. Ladies established presses that devoted themselves to distributing their dismissed books as of late.

The tradition of women being portrayed in literature as submissive and docile has been due to the inferior position women have held in male-dominated societies. However, the wave of feminism in the 70s and 80s sparked resurgence in for giving a place in the age of women. The times are changed and women are becoming the source of inspiration to many writers now.

As Anne Frank in "The Diary of a Young Girl" quotes

"Women should be respected as well. Generally speaking men are held in great esteem in all parts of the world, so why shouldn't women have their shares, soldiers and war heroes are honoured and commemorated explorers are granted immortal fame, martyrs are revered, but how many people look

upon women too as soldier?...Women, who struggle and suffer pain to ensure the continuation of the human race, make much together and more courageous soldier than all those big-mouthed freedom-fighting heroes put together".

Literature has witnessed the role of women evolving through ages, until recent times, most of the published writers were men and the portrayal of women in literature was without doubt biased. Here's a look at how women were portrayed in literature through eras.

Speaking of depiction of women in Indian poetry, it was freedom-fighter, educationist and activist Mahadevi Varma, who became the torchbearer of Hindi poetry on women issues, she also wrote on issues of women's emancipation and female sexuality-one that pretty much existed outside marriage.

Indian writers like Chetan Bhagat and Anita Nair have showcased the new woman in their books while Chetan Bhagat portrays his women characters as harbingers of social change and equality, Nair's Characters have their own pains and sorrow but they overcome their entire struggle, a fact you'll notice especially in her bestseller, ladies coupe.



Nair feels nothing has changed in the term of mentality "That a woman could alive a fulfilled life on her own terms was a concept writers seemed unable to conceive or unwilling to explore. Sadly very little has changed".

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