

The Ordeal of Feministic Perspectives in Shashi Deshpande's *The Binding Vine*

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Abstract

Feminism during the eighteenth century has come to be defined by the literature of the time. Women, who did not have as many outlets as they do today, expressed their political opinions through literature itself. Although feminist texts are more threatening to the dominant patriarchal system. Following the overthrow of the government in France, women in Britain believed that “a revolution in sentiments, manners and moral opinions was possible in their own country. They are expected to be silent. Feministic concept of western culture is different from Indian feminist point of view may vary from the place to another, one country to another based on the situation. To improve the condition of a disadvantaged society often overlooks the difference in the dilemma of Indian and western women. As a western woman she can achieve her individuality within or without her family but is not same to the Indian women she can gain her individuality while remaining in the family. They value their family, as well as their individuality. They normally do not fragment the family and marital bonds.

Key Words:

Chauvinistic, Solidarity, Enormity, Anguish, Dictates

The Indian feminists mostly concern with the women in the underprivileged society. The women are in the search of self identity, self respect and liberation all walks of life. They try to replace the traditional image of Indian women. But at the same time, they respect culture and tradition of our country. They buy to live in the bond of the

culture. To attain their individuality they want to bare all the nonsense and supposed to be patient and to tolerant. Every woman has the dream to be have a good caring family and loving-in-laws, but this does not happen to all the women in the society. Most of their expectations always lead to disappointments. They seek friendship with men for their comfort and economic satisfaction.

Feminism is based on women's liberation movement that seeks equal rights and opportunities for women in their economic activities, personal lives and politics. Feminism is a political perception that is based on two fundamental perceptions. One is Gender difference is the foundation of a structural inequality between men and women in which women suffer systematic social injustice, and second is the inequality between the sexes is not result of biological necessity but it is produced by differences. So feminism emphasis understanding the social and psychic mechanism, that construct and perpetuate gender inequality and then to change this bias attitude of society.

The first wave of feminism made its root in ninetieth and early twentieth century which gave emphasis on women legal and political rights to empower women in our society by demanding the opportunity in the field of property right to vote. But it could not solve the problem related to women. As a result the second wave of feminism raised its hood in the 1960s and 70s which advocates the wholesome development of women free from all types of inequality and miseries. It attempted at breeding women self-awareness and challenged the traditional stereotype of women as passive, dependent and irrational.

Feminism is a diverse collection of social theories, political movement and moral philosophies, largely motivated by or concerning the experiences of women's especially in terms of their social, political, economic situation. As a social movement feminism largely focus on and limiting eradicating gender inequality and promoting women's right, interest and issues in society. Some feminists focus on documenting gender inequality and changes in the social position and representation of women. Others argues that gender and even sexuality and developed alternation moods for studying social reaction.

Feminism is a power tool for voicing some basic concerns and aspirations of women. The advent of literature written by the female writers promised to picture life from a women point of view. The writers revolt against traditions that are defined by what is essential patriarchal society even feminist fiction displays to some extent traces of a dual tradition, feminism speaks with many roles. In feminist studies, women are both the subject and objects of study. As male biases were uncovered in existing theory, feminist studies re-examined society and social theory and concluded that as women and women's perspective were missing from the social sciences, history, literature and so on.

The literary meaning of the word feminism is the belief and aim that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men feminists agree the women, like men should have a freedom. They argue for the existence of a female. She exists as a human being with an individuality honour and dignity in their work of art. Those having a feminist consciousness assert the need of realization of the individuality and do not hesitate to talk out the periphery of women as physically weak to venture into the world outside the four walls of their houses and to make important decisions.

Feminist consciousness explored by women writers leads to self-discovery of the women characters, who realize their inner strength. Gender and sexuality have always been problematic issues in every society but becomes more pronounced in their nature when the object of consideration is the third world context. The issues here focus on the feminine. Feminist political activism commonly campaign on issues such as reproduction rights violence within a domestic partnership ,maternity leaves, equal pay, sexual harassment, discrimination and sexual violence. Themes explored in feminism include patriarchy objectification, sexual objectification and oppression.

All Shashi Deshpande's works deal with the problems and issues of contemporary middle class women. Her heroines are sensitive, intelligent and career oriented. She poignantly expresses the frustration and disappointments of women and describes their bitter experience in the male dominated society.

This novel *The Binding Vine* shows how a woman of good education and earning could react to the so called issues against women in the male chauvinistic society, there

by inculcating the spirit of solidarity among women and ushering in an assured secure world to all women. While depicting the agony of a wife, who is the victim of martial rape, she portrays the plight of women raped outside marriage and those who would rather suffer in silent in the name of the family honour.

Urmila is Shashi Deshpande's first protagonist who decides to fight another woman's battle. Urmila gets no support from her family members and when the hospital authorities decide to shift Kalpana to a suburban hospital Urmila protests and decides to take the matter to the press thinking that Kalpana might get justice.

Urmila succeeds in stopping the transfer to Kalpana to another hospital Urmila's friend Vanna and Inni mother at home are unable to understand her deep involvement with the girl. Vanna goes a step ahead and warns Urmila, "It's none of our business". (171)

Urmila never hinders from the oppositions, she pursues the case and eventually reopens the case. The police are asked to present their new investigations. With the help of her friend Malcolm, she presents Kalpana's case in the press. This rape issue once again gains public attention and the government orders a deep investigation.

According to Shakutai that sulu always lived in constant terror of being thrown out of her house because she cannot have children. And along with this truth, Urmila learns that Indian women are subjected to domination by their husbands. Urmila learns that it was her father and not she who had sent her away, for he did not trust his wife in matters relating to child care.

Urmila's father takes the decision of sending Urmi the infant daughter to his mother place, because his wife Inni, in server urgency had left the infant Urmi under the care of a man servant. Inni pours out all the anguish of a helpless woman, who has nothing to do under the stern dictates of her husband, she says,

He didn't say anything to me, he just took you away, I begged him, Urmi, I cried, I promised but he wouldn't listen. Nothing could make him change his mind. You know your papa I didn't want you to be sent away to

Ranidurg believe me Urmi, I didn't want that, I wanted you with US, I never got used to the idea of your being in Ranidurg and I wanted you with me.(199-200)

She draws the attention of the society to the inequality of sexes and there is less agony in attempting to change societal roles and attitudes. In spite of all this, she does not rebel against the established system for she believes that the things are improving gradually but at a slow pace. But any way the system was improving. The novel is a work that should be read as a projection of ideas as women's solidarity female bonding and value of sisterhood in male dominated culture.

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