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## **Social issues in the Novels of Taslima Nasreen**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The social vision of Nasreen is deeply influenced by undivided Bengali culture. She loathes the social inequalities of Muslim communalism, Hindu communalism, Caste distinction and discrimination, linguistic regionalism, religious bigotry, separatism which are deeply embedded in the socio-economic set up of Indian subcontinent.

Key words: Discrimination, Gender, feminism, Religion, Perception,

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### **Main Text**

Nasreen's ideas and beliefs form an integral part of her socialistic vision expressed comprehensively and competently in the plots of her novels. The content and the tonality of her novels are drawn from her real-life experience and vision; Scenes from Chittagong are depicted in her writings in a very convincing manner. They are based on facts and experience. Her characters are mobilized by the stresses and strain of the pressures of the social milieu. They are images from the real life with their hopes, fears and hatreds. They appear to be most natural and true to life. Nasreen's characters are guided by a code of personal ideals and values. Her canvas is full of heart-rending descriptions of violence and discrimination meted out to the minority community by majority community.

The art of Nasreen ridicules the prevalent social system. Her novels are a medley of patriotism, romance, irony, satire and socialism. Socialistic philosophy enwraps all her works. She employs the cinematic technique of montage and flashback in her novels. She writes in a lucid manner, using the sentences and phrases from Bengali language, thus lending local color to the dialogue of her characters. Nasreen's novels bear the influence of her journalism. The language used in the novels is exactly similar to the one she used in journals and newspapers. Her writing can be recognized by its simplicity, sincerity, authenticity and transparency. It holds a universal appeal to anyone with a charitable heart.

A few Bangladeshi writers have managed to write as successfully as Nasreen did, with a generally wide reading public. According to Nasreen, communalism is the poisonous weed that had been planted by the Britishers to form a hedge among the various religious communities like the Hindus, Muslims, Parsees, Christians. Nasreen detests communalism and favors nationalism and patriotism. Lajja depicts anti-communal flavor. Patriotism and nationalism imply a very deep love for one's own country. Nasreen is a committed patriot and a nationalist. Nationalistic and patriotic overtones are strongly implicit in Lajja. Lajja is a poignant and unrelenting account of the sufferings of minorities. Millions of people the world over wonder whether they should stay or leave an oppressive homeland. Some stay and suffer as the Dutta family does. Others leave to find that the world is simply not large enough for their rights. They may have fled; it is to be said religious fundamentalism, only to be victimized by racism. Fascism is not confined to one country or region, but permeates the whole world. In this way, it is also quite clear that internationalism and universal brotherhood are also significant in Nasreen's novels.

Nasreen loves mankind. Through her novels, she has proved that all men are same. They exploit women physically, economically and politically. One point that has not been pin-pointed about Taslima Nasreen is that she is very much as feminist writer, as most of her fiction, she has taken up female protagonists and is dealing with the 'Women question'. She has dramatized the dilemma of the woman of twentieth century Bangladesh in her fiction. Women in her novels are struggling to come out of the Victorian standards. They pose a threat to the patriarchy and they are not ready to give up easily. In Nasreen's fictional world romance and love are totally dissociated. The concept of sanctified sex had disappeared. For her, love is a web. Men trap women in it. Romantic love is unpopular with the emancipated woman who asserts her liberty through experimental sex. Promiscuity has become the hallmark of liberation.

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### **Conclusion**

Through her novels, Nasreen seems to give a message to women that life must be preserved at all cost, since one can fight oppression only when one is alive. The inevitable theme of feminism is beautifully captured in Margaret Laurence's words "The theme of survival, not just physical survival but the preservation of some human dignity and in the end some human warmth and ability to reach out and touch others" Taslima Nasreen is a freethinker who forms views independent of authority or dogma, be it from a divine or human source. There is a definite socialistic slant in the writings of Nasreen. Prose being an ideal medium of communication, Nasreen attempts to make her literary works a vehicle of her social ideology.

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