



## Inner Psychological Conflicts of Female Protagonists in the Writings of Acharya Rajneesh and Shobha De: A Comparative Discussion

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### ABSTRACT

The theme of psychology is dealt by writers in their novels which reveals the characters' inner feelings, thoughts, emotions and experiences. A psychological novel has greater attention for characters' thoughts, feelings and motivation than external action. The importance is given on the characters and their emotional reactions which tend to go deeper into their minds. Psychoanalytic theory is used in literature to decipher the concealed meaning within a text or interpret the intentions of the actions of the characters in a text. Inner conflict refers to the psychological struggle in the minds of literary characters. Indian Writing in English has given rise to many novels that describe inner minds of the characters. Psycho-analysis is associated with literature to understand the literary works in a better way. It probes into the inner psyche of characters and read the cause of their strange behaviour. A psychoanalyst has to probe into an unconscious mind of a neurotic patient to study the hidden repressions. The repressed memories pass down from the conscious through the subconscious into the unconscious. Inner conflict refers to the psychological struggle in the minds of literary characters. Indian Writing in English has given rise to many novels that describe inner minds of the characters. Some of the writer's works deal with the Indian middle class women's pain, frustration, anxiety and their silence as a method of interaction.

**Keywords:** Psyche, Familial Relationship, Psychoanalysis, Anxiety, Repression.

### Introduction

Psychological theories have been used to support the inner mind and behaviour of the characters in the novels. Shobha De writes for the masses and expresses her dissatisfaction concerning the behaviour of present day generation. According to her the women in the past were completely ignored by men. They were within the cultural and traditional boundaries created by men. She reveals the minor status of women in the Indian societies. Through her works, she spreads a message of striking back against the suppression by men. She fights for the rights of women in her novels. Her characters might be put down in the beginning, but they revive their strength mentally and physically to fight back. She is popular for her unique style of writing. She has created characters from the psychological point of view. Chandra Mohan Jain also known as Acharya Rajneesh and later as Osho was an Indian [philosopher](#) and [mystic](#). Rajneesh as negating a dichotomy between spiritual and material desires, reflecting the preoccupation with the body and sexual characteristic of late [capitalist consumer culture](#). The style of therapy Rajneesh devised, with its liberal attitude towards sexuality as a sacred part of life, had proved influential among other therapy practitioners and new age groups. According to Osho's view if in all over the world the woman is allowed freedom to grow to her potential, there will be many, women enlightened and many, many women mystics, poets, painters. And they will enhance not only the woman's part of the world – because the world is one – they will enhance the whole world. They will give men also new dimensions because their ways of seeing things are different. Man looks at things in one way; the woman looks from a different perspective.

### Main Thrust

Feminine psychology is an approach that focuses on social, economic, and political issues confronting women all throughout their lives. Shobha De, a feminist writer, depicts her female protagonists in a forceful way and uses the plot to emphasize her point that is personal not private but political. The protagonists in her works were outspoken critics of conventional society and its rules. They are not the typical women who accept abusive, unsatisfying, or uncomfortable relationships. Her novels depict mental and physical sufferings of female-protagonists and other women characters. She concerns with sufferings of women that finds a central place in the novels. She also mocks on cosmopolitan society and women which marks her ironical attitude towards serious issues. Shobha De applies descriptions like vultures as well as sharks for the dishonest trade, business person as well as mouse and angle for their female victims. *Strange Obsession* informs regarding the fascination of a psychotic female through a good-looking youthful. *Snapshots* is unstable innovative narrative of Shobha De. It also encloses bereavement, unfaithfulness, dishonesty, rape, incest as well as the wickedness that skulk under each day life of marginalized women. If women had been respected in the past, humanity would not have been in such a mess as it is today – because women are half of humanity. Half of humanity has remained undignified, uneducated, deprived of all freedom, all movement. We have hampered, handicapped ourselves. We have destroyed half of ourselves. It is important to note that Osho's views on gender roles and relationships were controversial

and have been subject to criticism and debate. Osho's teachings on this topic were often provocative and aimed to challenge traditional social norms and conventions. One of Osho's controversial ideas was that a woman is not necessary in the life of a man. According to Osho, men and women are fundamentally different in their biological, psychological, and emotional makeup, and that these differences can lead to conflicts and misunderstandings in relationships. Osho argued that the idea of a woman being necessary in a man's life is a cultural construct, and that it stems from traditional gender roles that assign women the role of caretakers and homemakers, and men the role of providers and protectors. Osho was critical of the idea that women are inherently weaker or less capable than men. He believed that women have the potential to be just as strong, creative, and independent as men, and that they should be given the same opportunities and freedoms to explore their potential. His most debated writing *The Book of Woman* describes what it means to be a woman and explores the feminine aspect of human beings.

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## Conclusion

Both Shobha De and Acharya Rajneesh portrayed the destiny of women and their exploitation, the writer tries to comprehend human exigencies through the helplessness of women. However, it is difficult to ignore her concern for the predicament of women. A woman is marginalized not only on the basis of gender but also on the basis of her class and caste. Women's function in the society is primarily one of negation; their marginalized position in the male dominated world enfeebles and silences them. Women have been marginalized since time immemorial, they have faced gender discrimination inside their houses and in society at large the conservative patriarchal society is based on male domination of women. The suffering and subjugation of women over a long period of time has made them resistant to atrocities. So, in due course of time this form of resistance turned into rebellious behaviour. The women of the present day do not find any purpose in being acquiescent. Women with a tinge of rebelliousness in their personality attempt to fight their way against all odds in order to fulfil their aspirations. The society is used to seeing women in victim position. These images are inculcated in the hearts of the people by the influence of the patriarchally dominated society, so any violation in this process is considered outrageous and unaccepted. A powerful woman is seen as a threat to the society.

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