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The Women Characters in the Novels of Anita Desai, Sashi Deshpande and Arundathi Roy

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ABSTRACT:

India is a land of a variety of cultures. In every culture, women are given special status due to their crucial role as mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and others. In our culture womanhood has been utilized so much that every life is not complete unless it has the existence of the women. So, in their novels, writers focus on women by adding colours to their roles based on special situations that are liked by the readers. As Indian womanhood plays a vital role in dominating household proceedings, the author would like to discuss the Indian writers and their contribution to describing the status of women in the dual society. This article's primary objective is to discuss the social status in society, when she encounters love, lust, marriage, and other relationships redefining in such cases where caste and creed are the yardstick for societal existence. The main focus will be on Anita Desai, Arundhati Roy, and Sashi Deshpande whose work has been discussed in the following article

Key words: Novels, Indian Writers, Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai & Sashi Deshpande.

INTRODUCTION:

Let us start with the evolution of Indian writers. As per the survey of K.R.S Iyengar(1973) the first Indian Novel to open the innings was Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's **Rajmohan's Wife (1864)**. In the second phase that is the beginning of 19th century well known names in Indian literature of English works were S.K. Venkataramani, Shankar Ram and A.S.P Ayer were the Novelist in the lead among the contributors. In the post independence period the eminent writers who were in the light were Battacharya, Manohar Magankar, Kushwanth Singh, Sudhir Ghosh, G.V. Densani, Ananth narayan, J Menon and Mahesh and others. Some of known names among the women writers were Ruth pawar, Jhabvala, Kamala Makandeya, Nayanatara Sahagal and Anita Desai. Recently the fiction writes in the 20th century are Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth ,Upmanaya Chattarjee, Sashi Deshpande, Sashi Tharoor, Anitha Ghosh, Amith Chowdary, Arundathi roy, Kiran Desai, Arvind Adiga and others.

Literature Review:

'The God of Small Things' penned by Arundhati Roy focuses on issues like human exploitation. caste system, voices of subalterns, injustice, atrocities, etc. (Suman Lata Chhachhia 2022). Anita Desai makes it clear that the Woman is capable of being autonomous and has the energy to put things into trial and error as well, capable of searching for new opportunities in her novels (Dr. Ousephachan K.V 2018). Women roles are more crucial when they are played in the family in the context of the familial context (Mr. Divvela Surendra and Dr. Raja Ambethkar 2012). Mirroring broader social dynamics and recurring motifs are common in stories of Indian womanhood (Mr. Divvela Surendra and Dr. Raja Ambethkar 2012).

Research Methodology:

The data collected here is secondary in nature, related articles, websites and reports will be the primary source of the research article. The following analysis will be presented with the conclusion to enable the reader to understand the concept in deep. Language used will be simple so that it protects the interest of slow learners as well as beginners.

Discussion:

Ammu is a woman from Kerla who is fed up with living with their parents. So, she shifts to Calcutta to live with her aunt. Later she marries a Christian guy and settles there, but later she discovers that he was day drunker and abuses her sexually. With her two twins, Elecha and Rahel she returns to Kerla and want to continue her mother's business. Later she falls in love with Velutha and continues a sexual relationship. When her children come to know

about that they leave the place and meet each other after two decades. The story reveals around in what way they separated and met after all those years, The author exposes the caste system in South India and the way the converts from one religion to other, as well as untouchability in the society Now we will focus on our primary objective. The role of women in Indian life style liberally speaking every family has mothers, sisters, grandmother and wives to be part of the family. Women have a significant role to play in our culture as food processing, nourishment and management of family affairs are governed by them. Anita Desai has been awarded booker prize price twice .**'The Village by The Sea'** in 1982 won the Guardian Children's Fiction and **Fasting, Feasting** in 1999 was shortlisted for the Booker prize. In the Novel **'Peacock (1963)'** the character 'Maya' has been created so wonderfully that it matches the typical tradition of Indian households. Maya was married by the Astrological consequences to Goutam who did not match any of her qualities. It is common in the digital world also that people follow such practices matching astrological such as bio-datas (kundalies) to marry a boy and girl. The most uneven and critical thing is that still educated people believe in such practices. Another character was quite opposite to this was the boycotting of the family for her choice. Leila who is married to a tuberculosis patient, dies of illness but for her own choice, she opposed her parents. Anitha Desai is well known to expose such critical characters that have been found in the present scenario. In **Fasting and Feasting**, she narrates the story of three women Uma, Aruna and Anamika who spoiled their lives because of the situations they couldn't overcome as beliefs are concerned with Indian womanhood.

Now Arundathi Roy's "The God of Small Things" that has bagged the Booker Prize is also one of the most popular stories around the world. The story is based on twins, who were separated and met after two decades. It outlines the feelings of the family, Estha and Rehal. The race, religion, class and cast that are discussed in the story with socialistic changes had appeared, while the story takes its journey from Kerala to the off shore. *A complete appreciation of 'The God of small things' is contingent upon on awareness of the role of the Syrian Christian Community and Communism in Kerala. It also calls for an understanding of the caste system in south India.* (R. Krishnaveni 2014). Ammu is a woman from Kerla who is fed up with living with their parents. So, she shifts to Calcutta to live with her aunt. Later she marries a Christian guy and settles there, but later she discovers that he was day drunker and abuses her sexually. With her two twins, Elecha and Rahel she returns to Kerla and want to continue her mother's business. Later she falls in love with Velutha and continues a sexual relationship. When her children come to know about that they leave the place and meet each other after two decades. The story reveals around in what way they separated and met after all those years, The author exposes the caste system in South India and the way the converts from one religion to other, as well as untouchability in the society.

Sashi Deshpande one of the well known writers of Indian feminism states that the culture of Indian womanhood cannot be matched with the western lifestyles. She focused on the central idea of the women character in a family. **Mala Ranganathan** in her article analysis- Shashi Deshpande women characters in her novels **"The dark holds no terrors, roots and shadows and that long silence"**. Mala Ranganathan point out three areas of women relationship in the mentioned novels they are the relationship between father and daughter, Husband and wife and also between mother and daughter. The heroines like Saru and Jaya see marriage as an escape route made in order to liberate them from the suffocation they experience in their parent's home.

It can be noted that traditional women like Sita or Mahasathi Mandodhari are no more the role models for the new generation. As a result of this you can observe that there are many dowery cases and divorce cases which are disturbing their society. Even in Sashi Deshpande novels sexual relations are exposed which are illegal for a married woman in Indian marriage system.

CONCLUSION:

The author has discussed in brief about the novels of Anita Desai and Sashi Deshpande in brief. As it was mentioned earlier that the role of women is crucial in Indian Society and both novelist have tried their level best to compensate the women needs and desires particularly with their married lives. Hence the author has made it clear the novels of both Anita Desai. Arundathi Roy and Sashi Deshpande are presenting the characters of the women of the new generation. The significance of the study was to explore author's mind set for contributing such a beautiful work. Further it pursues the women characters in the context of settling their lives with conditions like divorce and lust. There would be an examination of South Indian caste system and inter-caste marriages in the social context.

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