

Feminism in Contemporary Indian English Novels

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Abstract: *Feminism has become one of the most significant themes in contemporary Indian English literature. Modern Indian novelists have increasingly focused on the experiences of women, highlighting issues such as gender inequality, patriarchy, identity, and social oppression. Contemporary Indian English novels portray women not only as victims of patriarchal structures but also as individuals who challenge and resist these structures. Writers such as Arundhati Roy, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Anita Desai have contributed significantly to feminist discourse in literature by portraying complex female characters who struggle for autonomy and self-identity. This research paper explores feminist themes in contemporary Indian English novels by analyzing selected works and examining how female characters negotiate patriarchal norms, cultural expectations, and social restrictions. The study employs qualitative textual analysis to investigate representations of women, resistance to patriarchy, and the construction of female identity in contemporary narratives. The research demonstrates that modern Indian English fiction reflects evolving feminist consciousness, moving beyond traditional depictions of women as passive figures toward representations of agency, empowerment, and resistance. These novels highlight not only gender issues but also the intersections of caste, class, culture, and sexuality that shape women's lives in contemporary India.*

Keywords: Feminism, Indian English literature, patriarchy, gender inequality, women's identity, empowerment, contemporary novels

