

The New Face of Women in the Novels of Indira Goswami

Priyanka Pandey

Department of English

Government T. R. S. College, Rewa, M.P.

Abstract: *Indira Goswami (popularly known as Mamoni Raisom Goswami) remains one of the most influential Indian literary figures of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, especially in Assamese literature. Her novels break away from traditional portrayals of women and create complex female characters who articulate struggles against patriarchy, social injustice, marginalisation, and cultural constraints. Unlike conventional depictions of Indian women as passive sufferers or silent embodiments of virtue, Goswami's women assert agency, resist systemic oppression, and occupy public as well as private spheres of resistance. This paper analyzes the evolving representation of women in selected novels by Goswami, focusing on how she redefines gender roles and womanhood in a socio-cultural context that is simultaneously traditional and rapidly modernizing. The study deploys feminist and postcolonial literary frameworks to demonstrate how Goswami's works contribute to a new face of women—one shaped by resilience, defiance, existential questioning, and socio-political consciousness. The paper examines key texts including *The Moth-Eaten Howdah of the Tusker* and *The Blue-Necked God* to foreground how female characters negotiate identity, resistance, and social belonging within oppressive structures.*

Keywords: Indira Goswami; women; feminist literature; patriarchy; resistance; Assamese novels; gender representation