

Tradition and Modernity in Indian Women Literature

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Abstract: *Literature is an art which depicts the inner soul of the human beings like human society, social values, nature etc. Indian Literature in English has manifested the Literature with its quality, Culture and History for enrichment of the literature around worldwide. Indian authors specifically women writers contributed tremendous changes in the world through literature. There are many critics commented about Indian English novels. Indian literature is largely fame to profusely creative literature, in addition to that it contemplated the issues like Nationalism, Individual Consciousness Undoubtedly the writers profoundly dealt with Regionalism, and they crossed Natural boundaries with universal themes. This paper traces the flexibility of the paradigm in which a woman emerges despite all obstacles to maintaining her identity in her personal and professional life. Women's writings are discrete in literature. Their works explicit by the overwhelming output of writers mainly women writers on feminism played momentous role in enhancing the position and role of the Indian literature. Moreover the Indian writers tried to explore the truth of Indian women reality and succeeded in it through Indian literature.*

Keywords: Creative Literature, Nature, Natinoalism, Society, Identity & Culture of women writers

I. INTRODUCTION

Indian literature has attained an independent status in the realm of world literature. The first ever ancient Indian literature was Sanskrit Literature comprising of Rigveda, the great epics called Ramayana, Mahabharatham which were written in first millennium BCE. Then later on some other languages were developed step by step. Later in Medieval period, the Indian literature got new dimensions in various other Indian languages like Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Telegu, Urdu etc. Authors such as Arundhati Roy, Jumpa Lahari, Manju Kapoor, Kiran Desai, and have also written original powerful novels, social realities, and genres of local myths, which are increasingly attracting attention by winning international and national fame. They examine human relationships because the present problem is closely related to the mind and heart, and the Crusades are related to a system that has been in existence for centuries. Women writers have done an excellent job of making the transition process smooth and truly meaningful.

INDIAN WOMEN AUTHORS & THEIR ROLE

Women Literature in India is a mirror that showcases the rare values of Indian writing in English. Women's Literature has become a new form of Indian culture and voice in the Indian subcontinent. Women's Literature has secured an independent position in international Literature. Some critics and critics value Indian women writers. The article traces the flexibility of the paradigm in which a woman emerges despite all obstacles to maintaining her identity in her personal and professional life. Indian women's writing was probably the centre of storytelling novels were imported from the West as we know them today. Indian Women's Literature is undoubtedly one of the wealthiest literary genres in the world.

POWERFUL WOMEN WRITERS

Women are powerful and majestic. Women writers are artistic creative writers they have depicted only truth and reality in their writings. From time immemorial India has predominantly been a patriarchal society. Man occupied a prominent



place in every sphere of life leaving woman as a fragile creature to depend upon him for everything beginning from her existence to her sustenance. In such a circumstance, a woman's struggle in a male dominated society can be but easily fathomed. Going to school or reading and writing were not something she was capable of. Her only work was to care of their children, rear them up and do household works. Operating with such background, it was inconceivable that women were able to think, study or able to make decisions, could express themselves in the form of speech, poetry, storytelling, art etc.

Thanks to the British rule in India, it became a blessing in disguise for it gave glimpses of possibilities that women could be allowed to obtain formal or innovative education. In the midst of such inner struggle, India found a prophet in **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** who is being inspired by the English education and their world planned to bring about a change in the condition of women in India. In those days, women used to write about a woman's perception and experiences within the enclosed domestic arena. In the 19th century, women were participated in India's reformist movement actively against the British rule. In the 20th century, women's writing were powerful. The last two decades have witnessed phenomenal success in feminist writings of Indian English literature.

Later part in the 20th and 21st Century Indian women writers are moving forward with their force and sure strides, matching the pace of the world. They are recognized for their originality, versatility and the indigenous flavour of the soil that they bring to their work. Yes, they are our women writers. The voice of new Indian women writers through their writings, published in between 1980s and 1990s, has ushered in a literary renaissance is the third generation of women Indian English writers like **Nayantara Sehgal, Anitha Desai, Arundhati Roy, Shashi Desh Pande, Gita Mehta, Bharathi Mukherjee**, and **Jhumpa Lahiri**. Some other generation of female writers is led by Kamala Markandaya, Ruth Prawer Jhabvala and Shanta Rama Rau.

Away from this line of writing the lives of women, the most successful of the Indian women writers is **Jhumpa Lahiri** who created the difference among all the women writers. She is a dazzling storyteller with a distinctive voice. She has achieved international applause for her writing which mainly deals with Non-resident Indian characters, refugee issues and problems people face in overseas lands. Mira Nair directed a film based on her first novel '**The Namesake**' in 2006. Her work '**The Lowland**' on 2013 nominated for the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Award for Fiction.

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Nayantara Sehgal

Sahgal is the niece of Jawaharlal Nehru, and a noted novelist and political columnist. Her close association with India's power center reflects in her work, a lot of which deals with India's elite and how they responded to political changes around them. Sahgal won the Sahitya Akademi award for "Rich Like Us", set between 1932 to the mid 1970's, a time of great political unrest in India.

Indira Gandhi

The first female Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi was known for her political ruthlessness and controversial decision during her time at the helm of affairs. Based on interviews and other source material, her book "My Truth" is a rare and vitally important book offering us a peek into the life of Gandhi in her own words.

Urvashi Butalia

Urvashi Butalia is an Indian feminist, author and historian. She set up India's first feminist publishing house, called Kali for Women, that now runs as Zubaan Books, an imprint. Butalia has also written her own books, the most notable of which is "The Other Side Of Silence: Voices From The Partition Of India", that deals with stories of thousands of women and children who were killed during and after during the 1947 India-Pakistan partition.

Jhumpa Lahiri

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Lahiri is one of the most widely recognized contemporary writers of world literature and also a Pulitzer prize received for her novels. An Indian- American by birth, her stories usually discuss sensitive dilemmas faced by Indians, particularly touching upon the diasporic reality of migrant Indians. Sometimes, also hidden in the plot are also stories of women confronting difficult choices in life. Her work in Italian called "In Other Words", for example, gives a platform to a female voice that has been crushed by the burden of obligations to others.

Shashi Deshpande

Deshpande started her career writing with short stories. Three of her novels have received awards, including the Sahitya Akademy award for "That Long Silence", which delves into the suffering faced by a woman of a woman whose controlling husband doesn't understand why a woman needs her own identity and an equal place at home and in society. Shashi Deshpande's novel *That Long Silence* (1988) is regarded as his epitome of excellence. The project, which won her the Sahitya Akademy Award in 1990, tells the story of a prominent Indian housewife named Jaya, who maintained her peace of mind in Bombay for the rest of her life despite threats to break it. A lack of depth in a woman's life is illustrated in this novel. However, she points out that many family rules, such as the idea of trying to protect one's life by marrying a wealthy man and making a name for herself in the community by sending children to high schools, show how a woman's life is unusual, meaningless, and mechanical in part made for women themselves. *A Matter of Time* (1996) is another book that seeks to show three generations of female interaction. *Small Remedies* (2000) is a novel about raising children and various aspects. Finally, *The Binding Vine* (1992) encourages the reader to investigate how the "Binding Vine" of human emotions connects and nourishes different people throughout their lives.

Other famous Women Writers are **Rama Mehta, Susan Viswanathan, Suniti Namjoshi, Anuradha Marwah Roy, Nergis Dalal, Krishna Sobti, Dina Mehta, Malati Chendur, Gauri Deshpande, Namita Gokhale, Ruth S Jhabvala** and so on.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN WOMEN WRITERS

There were many writers contributed to the literature through their immense works.

Arundhati Roy: 'The God of Small Things' is about two children, Estha and Rahel, and the shocking significant experience at a young age. This work (1997) won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 1997.

Anita Desai: She received a Sahitya Akademy Award in 1978 for 'Fire on the Mountain', from the Sahitya Akademy. She has also won the British Guardian Prize for "The Village by the Sea". She has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times. Among of all the modern novelists, she is undoubtedly the most famous and influential female writer. She has been an excellent contributor to Indo-English novels.

Kamala Das: This feministic Writer trend of American confessional poets substantially impacts the Post-Colonial Indian English woman poets of whom Kamala Das emerges as the champion of Feminist Poetry.

II. CONCLUSION

Indian literature has played the important work in literature. Even today it holds an honourable position in the entire scenario of world literature. Many authors including women writers gave their impact of life in writings, so writing gives not only pleasure to the writers but also emotions of the people in their writings especially Indian writers explicit the reality and truth about Indians through Indian literature. It has long been said that the beginning of the new era of modern Indian Literature began. Many writers incorporated Indenisation and Westernization in search of a worldview. Meanwhile, Indian feminism, which Western women have strongly influenced, went in a slightly different direction from the West. All these feelings came together to bring about the rebirth of 21st-century India. Reformers support women's education in India, believing that social ills can be solved by educating women. Indian women writers have brought a new dimension to Indian literature meditation as they express their deep-rooted feelings about art and Literature.



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