



## CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN WRITERS IN INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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### **Abstract:**

The writing of Indian Women Writers in English Literature is recognized and praised by the critics and worldwide reader. Great poetess Sarojini Naidu lined the way to the woman writing. This great poetess captivated the readers with her writing. The Indian women writers in English are writing, not only in their native language but also in a second language.

Women writers in India are moving forward with their strong and sure strides, matching the place of the world. We see them bursting out in full bloom spreading their own individual fragrances. They are recognized for their innovation, usefulness and the home-grown flavor of the soil that they bring to their work.

**Key words:** Women, world literature, Indian writing in English, feminist.

### **1. INTRODUCTION:**

The work of Indian women writers has been undervalued due to patriarchal hypothesis about the superior worth of male experience. The factors contributing to this prejudice is the fact that most of these women writers have observed no domestic liberty. The Indian women's perception of their aspiration and expectations are within the frame work of Indian social and moral commitments. Indian women writers in English are victims of a prejudice. The majority of novels written by Indian women writers depict the psychological sufferings of the frustrated homemakers. The subject matter is often considered superficial compared to the depiction of the oppressed lives of women.

Indian writing in English is now gaining ground rapidly. We see Indian women writers like Shashi Deshpande, Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai, Kamala Das, Manju Kapur, Kiran Desai, who hold their own in the woman writer's world of initial rejection,

dejection, household bonds and domesticity. It is amazing to note that these writers and many more have climbed the ladder of success the slow and painful way. Arundhati Roy's unparalleled success took everyone, including herself by surprise. After all, she did admit that she had just been fooling around on her new computer and that it took her at least five months, though she had always known, she would be a writer.

Major development in modern Indian fiction is the growth of a feminist or women centered approach, that seeks to project and interpret experience from the point of a famine consciousness and sensibility. As Patreecia Mayer speaks, "*There seems to be something that we call a women's point of view on our look sufficiently distinct to be recognizable through the countries*".

Many Indian novelists have explored female subjectivity in order to establish individuality. The image of women in fiction has undergone a change during the last four decades. Women writers have moved away from conventional portrayal of enduring self sacrificing women towards conflicts, female character searching for individuality; no longer characterized and defined simply in terms of their victim status. A major anxiety in recent Indian women's writing has been a delineation of inner life and restrained interpersonal affiliation. The present paper is an attempt to study of some notable Indian novelist who got name and fame in Indian as well as world literature.

## **2. Contribution of Women Writers in Indian English Literature :**

Shashi Deshpande started out just like any other starry eyed young writer- in- the-making. Like immeasurable potential women writers she began her work with national magazines such as Femina and Eve's weekly, slowly branched out to more serious literature oriented magazines such as The Illustrated Weekly of India, The Junior Statesman and so on. She has also mentioned that writing is a award, sometimes like a fountain that spouts out words. Although she had the writer's gene in her system . she has had her share of writer's block too. There have been times when she would not be able to write even a paragraph! According to her, writing is more like a 'crazy-quilt quilt'. Bits and pieces come together at odd times and places and finally merge as a sequenced whole. Shashi Deshpande's novel 'A Matter of time' is a continuance of her exploration into the many facts of the feminine experience in writing. In this novel, she has displayed the themes of silence, gender differences, submissive sufferings and household relationships into much deeper realms. It is a story encompassing three generations of women coming to terms with their life in and all female worlds.

Manju Kapur is another notable novelist. She is a professor of English at Miranda House in Delhi. She belongs to Amritsar. She speaks for the middle class especially middle class woman. Her first Novel 'Difficult Daughters' received the Common Wealth Award. In a discussion with sukhmant khorna on 15 March 2010 she noted that her novel Difficult Daughters is about my own mother. She also state that I have only theme in my mind while writing. Her novel 'A married woman' is a seductive story of a love at a time of political and religious upheaval, and is told with sympathy and intelligence.' A Married woman' is the story of an artist whose canvas challenges the constraints of

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middle class existence. Manju Kapur describes the condition of woman in the society through her protagonist.

Arundhati Roy is renowned name in this list of Indian woman writers. She was born in 1961 in Bengal. Arundhati grew up in Kerala. She trained herself as an architect at the Delhi school of Architecture but abandoned it in between. She believes that, "A feminist is a woman who negotiates herself into a position where she has choices." The International community knows Arundhati Roy as an artist with her debut novel *The God of Small Things*. 'The God of small things' won Britain's premier Booker prize in 1997. Roy is the first non-expatriate Indian author and the first Indian woman to have won this prize.

Anita Desai, the other great novelist of the Indian English fiction. She was born in 1937. Anita Desai is indisputably one of the distinguished Indian - English fiction writers. She holds a unique place among the present-day women novelists of India. She has published ten novels and other literary works of huge value. Anita Desai's women characters rebel against patriarchal community in order to explore their own potential or to live on their own terms, regardless of the consequences that such a rebellion may have on their lives. Desai's women, want freedom within the community of men and women, as it is the only way that will succeed in fulfilling them. In fact, Desai's model of an emancipated woman, Bimala in the novel *Clear Light Of Day*, is an unmarried woman. Her married women characters like Maya in *Cry, a Peacock*, Monisha in *The City*, Nanda in *Fire in the Mountain*, and Sita in *Where Shall We Go This Summer?* become miserable, aggressive or self-destructive.

Bharati Mukherjee's novels flashes on the issue of resettlement, immigrants and feeling of separation experienced by anticipation as well as Indian women and their struggle. Bharati Mukherjee, a celebrated novelist, has written *The Tigers Daughter*, *Jasmine*, *The Holder of the World*, *Leave It To Me*, and *Kautilaya's Concept of Diplomacy*. Her novels and short stories reveal her experiences as an expatriate. They reflect the trauma of an uprooted individuality. As Mukherjee grows mature she shows a distinctive shift towards adaptation and acceptance. She is a writer of complete skill

Kamala Markandaya is a prolific and talented novelist. She draws her picture on changing socio- economic scene. Markandaya's novel presents Women who proves them to be as challenging and ingenious. One of the features of her novel is the optimistic attitude of female character. She has handled different themes in her novels. Her '*Nector in A Seive*' is on the theme of hunger, *A Silence of Desire* is on love and class conflict, *A Handful of Rice* is on love and poverty in poor segments in Calcutta society, *The coffer Dams* is on the predicament of migrants caused by dam construction, *The Nowhere man* is on an immigrant Asian; two virgin of conflict between parents and children and *The Golden Honey Comb* is on East- West dichotomy.

Nayantara Sehgal wrote novels mostly concerned with the political affairs and its impact on human existence, out of control corruption and values in the state of political disorder in her novel. Her novels take a stand against the vital relationship like marriage going disinfected. She was the first female Indo-Asian writer who receives wide

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acknowledgment. Her major works are-*A Time to be Happy, The Time of Morning, Storm in Chandigarh, The Day in Shadow, A New Situation in New Delhi* and *Rich like Us* and *Non-Fiction Prison and Chocolate Cake* and *From Fear Set Free*. Her feelings for politics and her command over English are rather more remarkable than her art as a novelist. Nayantara Sehgal and Ruth Pravar Jhabwala both have explored different proportions of marriage in India. Sehgal strikes a strong key-note in showing her female characters breaking away from unhappy marriages. She takes a look at approved marriage in India.

Kiran Desai is an Indian author who is citizen of India and a lasting resident of the USA. Her novel 'The Inheritance of loss' won the 2006 Booker prize and the National Book Critics Circle fiction award. Her first novel 'Hullabaloo' published in 1998. 'The Inheritance of Loss' opens with a teenage Indian girl, an orphan called Sai, living with her Cambridge educated Anglophile grandfather, a retired judge, in the town of Kalimpong on the Indian side of the Himalayas. Sai is passionately involved with her math's tutor, Gyan, the Descendant of a Nepali Gurkha mercenary, but he ultimately recalls from her noticeable privilege and falls in with a group of Ethnic Nepalese insurgents. Kiran Desai has handled several major issues of modern civilization in her novels.

### **3. CONCLUSION :**

Indian women writers had given their remarkable contribution in making Indian English literature rich. Indian Women writers have created a great tradition of writing in English. The above study shows the prosperity of Indian women writers. They are not less significant than male writers. They have handled diverse subjects in their writing. No doubt they have struggled more to attain their goal. They have given up from difficult to tribal and pastoral areas too, but all of them have articulated their concern for women and their problem. Anita Desai, Kamala Markandaya, Shashi Deshpande, Manju Kapur have chosen the problems and issues faced by women in today's male dominated world as the main theme of their books. The women novelists try to create consciousness that this is the time to announce with exact precision. In India, the women writers are doing very well and their contribution is immense. Majority of the Indian readers comprising both male and female read the novels of the Indian women authors with certain anticipation.

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