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## THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN KAMLADAS' MY STORY

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### ABSTRACT

*Kamla Das is one of the most distinguished writers of Indian writers in English. She occupies a unique place in English as well as Malayalam Literature. In her semiautobiographical My Story she adopts the mode of a confessional writer who hides nothing from readers. In this article an attempt is made to unravel her feminine protest in Kamla Das' My Story The term feminine is an ideology which denotes female. In general it is the ideology about the women's liberation.*



**KEYWORDS:** Kamala Das, Plight of Women.

### INTRODUCTION

The term feminine is an ideology which denotes female sensibility. In general it is the ideology about the women's liberation. It aims at upgrading the position of women in the society. It gives stress on the fact that men and women are complementary to each other. The women writers have emerged in a large number in India depicting the social, economic and cultural realities in their writings. Most of them have taken up the novel than any other literary form. Their narratives tend to be interior, subtle and sensitive because they concentrate on the domestic and private spheres using their keen sense of observation. Most of the women have been domesticated and socialized even after the independence. Constitutionally, they are given the fundamental rights but in reality they are denied all those rights.

They have been subjected to loneliness and sometimes domestic violence due to patriarchal oppressions. Woman has been the subject of persecution and torture right from the Vedic era up to the modern time. She has been suffering the trials and tribulations, the sorrows and sufferings in male dominated society. In fact, women constitute a half of the world population but they are not treated equally by men almost in all spheres of life. They are brutally oppressed, suppressed, and marginalized.

However in post modern Indian Writing in English the things are falling apart. The modern woman needs no worship. She feels that she deserves a better treatment at the hands of man. In this context, modern female writers like Kamala Das, Nayantara Sahgal, Shashi Deshpande, Anita Desai, Namita Gokhale, Manju Kapur, Arundhati Roy to name only a few, write about women's protest and assertion. These writers have portrayed the realistic picture of the woman in their writings. Their consciousness has continued to grow day by day. It is true that feminine mode is becoming central to the Indian English literature today.

Kamla Das is one of the most distinguished writers among them. She occupies a unique place in English as well as Malayalam Literature. Though she is well-known for her number of poetic volumes on feminine mode her My Story is also widely read and appreciated in the realm of literature. In her autobiography My story she adopts the mode of a confessional writer who hides nothing from readers.

There is nothing ugly and forbidden for her. In this book she frankly states that she had fallen in love with a man other than her lawfully wedded husband. Marriage is perhaps the most complex of human relationship. Kamla Das with her free and frank nature delineates the problem of marriage in her writings. She writes that she was forced to live a life of middle class house wife. Her rancor for the condition of traditional housewife is observed in the following lines:

My life had been planned and its course charted by my parents and relatives. I was to be the victim of young man's carnal hunger and perhaps, out of our union, there would be born a few children. I would be a middle class house wife, and walk along the vegetable shop carrying a string big and wearing faded chappals on me I would beat my thin children when they asked for expensive toys, and make them scream out for mercy. I would wash my husband's cheap under were and hang it out to dry in the balcony like some kind of a national flag, with wifely pride.

Infact in a life of man or woman, there are happy as well as sorrowful events. Neither the sorrowful nor the happy events can be forgotten. It's true that a man cannot live alone in his life. He has to marry a woman. In the same way, a woman cannot live all alone. She has to marry a man. When man and woman marry, a relationship develops between the two. But it's a responsibility of both of them to maintain the sanctity of the marriage.

While speaking about her marital status, she severely exposes the lust of her husband, who never treated her with tenderness, warmth and affection. All the time he treated her at his whims. She was considered as machine who wily-nily has to surrender to his carnal desires and expectations. A man or woman must be physically and mentally mature in order to understand each other. The woman wants obviously love not lust from her husband. 'Love' emerges when both are concerned for each other in sexual affair, where as 'lust' is something that one gets without a thought of the other. Any woman, especially a married woman, expects to be loved. What a woman hungers for, is not lust but love.

## CONCLUSION

Many times her husband left her and their children to their destiny when he went to his official tours. Kamla Das had to face many ordeals in her marital life. She focused her attention on her family. But through it she exposed the so called traditions of patriarchal society where woman has no voice and no choice. In fact My Story deals with the issue of socio-cultural construction of gender and challenges the masculine treatment of women as sexual objects. Throughout the book she lashes hard at the prejudice attitude of Indian society towards women.

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