



Review of Research

ISSN: 2249-894X

Impact Factor : 5.7631 (UIF)

Volume - 12 | Issue - 7 | April - 2023



"A SURVEY OF WOMEN NOVELIST AND SHORT STORY WRITERS IN INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE"

Ravindra Hanmantrao Sagar

Asst. Prof., Nagnath Arts Comm. & Sci. College, Aundha Nagnath.

ABSTRACT:

The education of women in India started as early as sixth century A.D. in Vedic and Mathematics studies. Indian education was started around 1850 through the missionary Schools established by the British to educate the women. In those days only the women of the upper caste and class could take-up such education with a lot of anxiety and hesitance. The missionary schools were started along with the vernacular schools in which Sanskrit was the main subject. A very few young women who were close to the British families and the courtiers had the benefit of English schools. Indian women began to express their feelings and emotions after a decade or two.



KEYWORDS: Women Novelist, short story writers, English literature.

INTRODUCTION:

The major motivation behind writing a novel or a short story has been a self-projection in words of their feelings and emotions complicated social situation. The social consciousness of the female writer is expressed in their writings. Indian woman writers shared particularly the innermost feelings, emotions and thoughts of women in general. They transmuted their companion's feelings and emotions in the form of a novel or a short story. The early fiction by Indian women of middle class was an effort to give expression to their agonies and sufferings. In their writings they mainly dealt with the day-to-day problems of women in the male dominated Indian society. The awareness of individuality, the sense of incompatibility, with their rigid tradition bound sufferings, resentment towards male dominance, the problems at home and in place of work in the changing society-all these got succinctly expressed.

Earliest women writings are found as early 1870's. Krupabai Sathianandan published two autobiographical novels - Kamala (1894) and Saguna (1895). Santa and Sita Chatterjees wrote novels and short stories - Tales of Bengal (1922) and Cage of Gold (1923) and the Garden Creeper (1931), Cornelia Sorabjee was the author of a large number of stories - Love and life behind Purdah (1901), Sun Babies (1901) and Between the Twilights 1908). There were other minor women writers like Raja Lakshmi Debi, Toru Dutt and Iqbul Unnisa Hussian.

The next group of women wrote novels and short stories in a better way than their predecessors. These writers not only improved upon their choice of themes but also they improved their narrative techniques. Kamala Markandaya is the first of this group of major writers. Her novels are Nectar in Sieve (1954), Some Inner Fury (1957), A Silence of Desire (1961), Possession (1963) and A Handful of Rice (1966), and Coffer Dams (1969). The themes in her early novels are- secret shame guilt,

Love Revolution or fulfillment or stillness or Pandemonium and themes in later novels are pettiness, and the horror of the life in the cities.

Ruth Prawar Jhabvala published more than ten novels *To Whom She Will* (1955), *The Nature of Passion* (1956), *Esmond in India* (1958), *The Householder* (1960), *Get Ready for Battle* (1962), *A Backward Place* (1965) etc. She also published two important collection of short stories- *Like Birds, Like Fishes* (1963) and *A Stronger Climate* (1968). In her novels she mostly deals with the themes of East-West encounter, alienation of the aliens in India and images of India as a place of heat and dust, sadhus and sanyasis and destiny and death.

Attia Hussain is another important women novelist and short story writer. Her novel is *Sunlight on Broken Column* (1961) and, earlier collection of short stories is *Phoenix Fled* (1953). In her short fiction she deals with inner complexities in the Muslim families. She writes a feeling for places events and words.

Venu Chitale and Shanta Rama Rau, two important women novelists give us the pictures of high caste people of their contemporary orthodox Indian society. They deal with the growing up of the women in rigid social circumstances. In their novels they improve in thematic presentation and narrative competence. In *Transit* (1950) and *Remember the House* (1956), they deal with the problems of women in general. Their novels may be described as a chronicles of the times.

Nayantara Sahgal is major Indian English women novelists who practiced the genre of the political novel. Her novels- *A Time to be Happy* (1957), *This Time of Morning* (1965), *Strome in Chandigarh* (1969), *Rich Like Us* (1985), *Plans for Departure* (1985). In most of her novels the main themes are East-West encounter, Indo British Encounter. She gives more intention to the fate of the people in times of social- Political crises in the country. The contemporary political situation forms the exotics thrilling action of her narrative couched in plain and simple English.

There are some more minor Indian English women novelists and short story writers- Vimla Raina, Nergis Dalal, Bharathi Mukherjee, Veena Paintal etc. Vimla Raina's *Amrapali* (1962) is a rare historical novel, which deals with life of the famous dancer Amrapali, the devotee of Lord Buddha. *Nergis Dalal's Minari* (1967), *The Sisters* (1973), *The Inner Door* (1975), and *Girls from the Overseas* (1979) deal with problems of love and marriages. Bharathi Mukherjee's *Tiger's Daughter* (1973) and *Wife* (1976) deal with the alienation of frustration of women in and out of marriage against the foreign background. Veena Paintal is another Indian English Women novelist. Her novel *Serenity in Storm* (1967) deals with the triangular Love affair in an Indian marriage. Her novels *Link in the Broken Chain* (1967) and *Autumn Leaf* (1976), *Spring Returns* (1977) and *Mid Night Women* (1979) deal with inner moral and spiritual conflict of women mind in relation to man's predominance in marital relationship.

Shashi Deshpande is one of the major Indian English novelists and a short story writer who is really equally adopt in both forms of the novel and the short story. Her first collection of short stories is *Legacy and Other Stories* (1971), *The Miracle and Other Stories* (1986) is the second. Besides her collection of short stories, she published well written novels- *The Blood Red Bangles* (1976), *The Monument* (1977), *Dark Holds No Terrors* (1980), *If I Die Today* (1982), *Come Up and Be Dead* (1983), *Roots and Shadows* (1983), *That Long Silence* (1988), *The Biding Wine* (1993), *A Matter of Time* (1996), and *Small Remedies* (2000). In her novels she mainly deals with psychological and social problems of women at home and places of work. Her language of fiction is studded with images symbols and metaphors. There are no much technical innovations in her novels.

Gouri Deshpande, like her sister, is also a poet and short story writer. She has collection of short stories entitled, *The Lackadaisical Sweeper and Other Stories* (1977). She is more known for her innovative writing in Marathi. She is also a skilled translator of Marathi works into English. Gita Hariharan is also a minor short story writer and novelists. Her first novel is *Thousand Faces of the Night* (1992), and the second is *The Art of Dying* (1993) She is also known for her feminist themes. Dina Mehta is also another important short story writer. Her collection of short stories entitled *Myth-Makers* (1969) is widely read and appreciated.

Arundhati Roy is the famous recent novelists who won the Booker prize for her excellent novel entitled, *The God of Small Things* (1997). In her novel she powerfully portrays the inner intense

suffering of Malayali Nair woman who is deserted by her westernized husband. Her technical innovations of using a Childs language remind one of Lewis Caroll's Alice in the Wonderland.

Gita Mehita is yet another famous Indian English woman novelist and short story writer. *The Raj* (1989) is her significant novel. It was followed by *Rivar Sutra* (1993), *Karma cola* (1980). Like her contemporaries, she also deals with the typical themes of East-West Encounter and the problems of women in general and the images of India in her novels. *The Snakes and the Ladders* (1977) is her important collection of short stories.

Jai Nimbkar is famous novelist and short story writer. Her collection of short stories are - *The Lotus Leaves and Other Stories* (1972), *The Phantom Bird and Other Stories* (1993). She has published three novels *Temporary Answer* (1974), *s, A Joint Venture* (1988) and *Come Rain* (1993). *Come Rain* is her important novel.

REFERENCES

1. Meenakshi Mukherjee. *Twice Bom Fiction* New Delhi: Arnold Heinemann, 1977.
2. K.R.S. Iyengar, *Indian writing in English*. New Delhi: Sterling. 1985.