

Struggles and Emancipation of Women in Shashi Deshpande's Novel "A Matter of Time"

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Abstract

This paper presents a scuffle of women, frustration, subjugation and emancipation of women. Shashi Deshpande was a renowned Indian writer in English and she reflects the Indian culture issues in her works. She is an award winning Indian novelist. In her novel "A Matter of Time" she describes about three women Sumi, Kalyani and Aru. Kalyani is abandoned by her husband and suffered by him. Like that her daughter Sumi also deserted by her husband Gopal with three daughters. She is also suffered and oppressed but she is not silent like her mother Kalyani. Aru become a lawyer and she decides to not get married. Sumi get over from her past and elevate her life in the male dominated society. Women have been conditioned as subordinates in our society. Many women in our society being alienated and deserted by their husbands, now days it was raised in our society is a plight.

KEYWORDS: scuffles, alienation, subjugation, frustration and plight.

Introduction:

This paper presents a scuffle of women, frustration, subjugation and emancipation of women. Women are discriminated against in every sphere: in child care and rearing, gaining access to and opportunities for education and other development programmes, in employment, social and religious activities, marriage and family system. Often women are not even aware of the subordination and therefore need to be awakened and made conscious of their status and ready to assert their rights. Patriarchal institution of society is the family where male dominance is maintained. Male dominance in the society affects men and women relationship. Shashi Deshpande's novel "A Matter of Time" she describes about three women who are all suffered by male dominance in the society. Sumi was abandoned by her husband with her three daughters. Sumi and her mother Kalyani both are oppressed by male. This novel describes about three generation and how they get emancipation. Emancipation is a process of getting liberation. Women are suffered lot in our society to attain emancipation from male. Women have been conditioned by the system to accept the subordinate status in exchange of protection and privilege but in the form of marriage women are dominated by men. Women are always considered as weak, vulnerable and easily exploited. Violence has long been accepted as

something that inevitably happens to women in our society. Very rarely do we come across efforts countering the patriarchal traditions, values, and practices we have inherited.

Critical analysis:

Shashi Deshpande is an award winning Indian novelist. She won the sahitya akademi award for the novel for the novel. She has written number of short stories, four children novels and nine novels, besides several perspective essays. She basically reflects the problems of tradition and struggles of middle class Indian women. In her novel "A Matter of Time" she describe about three generation of women Sumi, Kalyani, Aru are the main characters in the novel. In the novel Sumi has been deserted by her husband for no reason. He walked out of her life and frees himself from all the responsibility. Sumi than realize the situation and the responsibilities that burdens her which is impel on her by her husband. Sumi move to her parent's house with her three daughters Aru, Charu, and Seema. Sumi's father Shripathi haven't spoke to her mother for thirty-five years.They live in oppressive silence. Shripathi abandoned his wife kalyani for she has loss their four year old mentally retarded child, she is the responsibility of the loss.Desertion of Sumi's husband cause her many disgrace, embarrassment, and shame for her and her family. While a husband abandoned his wife all the shame is only came to the wife not to the men in the society. Sumi step away from the hidden patriarchy pressure and other responsibilities. When her husband deserted her, she is not shattered emotionally and broke down. With courage as an isolated wife, she wants to improve her three daughter's life. Sumi emancipates herself as a new women but Kalyani, sumi's mother who fears that her life is repeat on her daughter and laments for it and patriarchal oppression move women to the marginalization of silence. Sumi doesn't want any explanation for her husband's act or reason. She only wants to ask one question after the desertion of husbands but it also unasked. Sumi is not protest against her husband for his desertion nor shatter herself like her mother and she never want to talk about her husband's desertion to anyone. Aru was angered by her father's act of desertion of her mother who was discriminated in fear of the future of her daughters and she is not convinced by her father's answer for the desertion of her mother. In India women are being a silent women in male dominance and sufferings in the society.Sumi's mother Kalyani's past made her to come over from the suffering caused by desertion of her husbands. Aru is shocked by the indifference caused by her mother in the desertion of her father.Sumi tries to forget the past and her husband Gopal.After the death of Sumi, Aru came to realize the indifference of her mother towards father. Aru feel depressed by observing the suffering of her mother and grandmother Aru decides to not to get remarried and she feels strong opinion against the patriarchal oppressionshe determines to become a lawyer cum social worker to work for the welfare of women who was oppressed by male and the society. This novel portrays three generation, the older generation which was silent by the power of male dominance and the second generation it not raise any question but lead independent and isolated life by patriarchal dominance and the third generation and younger generation is radical and revolutionary towards male dominance. This novel focuses the patriarchal pressure, emotional exploitation of women, social pressure and abuse. In this novel Sumi get emancipation of her struggles and Aru is the identity of her emancipation. This paper concludes that many women in our society being a victim in the

hands of male dominance and they are not over come from the pain caused by male dominance. Women should know the reality and should move forward to lead their life. Sumi's courage made her in to an independent woman in the society and made Aru as a lawyer and Charu as a doctor. She creates individual identity for herself emancipation from struggles.

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