

## **Gender Issues in Shashi Deshpande's "The Dark Holds No Terror"**

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### **Abstract**

This paper focuses on the sex crime and isolation of women in the society and shashi Deshpande was an Indian novelist her works mostly themes on women's struggle in the society. Shashi deshpande's novel "The dark holds no terror" describes about the married women. Sarita who often called as saru. Who was physical oppressed by her husband in night .women are often battered, ill-treated, tortured and the worst is being killed. Marital violence includes a form of emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and even economic abuse .women in our society sacrifice everything for their family and for their children. Marriage is considered sacred among the Hindus. It bears a social and spiritual significance but many men torturing their wife in our society. Women are obliterated by men in the male dominated society.

**KEYWORDS:**sex crime, isolation of women, marital violence and obliteration.

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### **Introduction:**

This paper focuses on the sex crime and isolation of women in the society. Marital violence has been getting the attention of social scientists, policy makers, social workers and even politicians. It is a form of power and control exercised over women within the institution of marriage. Women go in to marriage for companionship, partnership, procreation, emotional support and legitimisation of sexual activities but invariably what is being experienced by many women is violence, abuse, immorality and neglect. Girls and women are discriminated against everywhere whether at home or workplace, at all stages of life. More oppressive and exploitation forms is witnessed in wife-beating, rape and murder. Marriage is one of the most rites to equip man or woman for life. It meant to bring a strong bond between two individuals but many of them use the term marriage to struggle and discriminates women. Shashi Deshpande's novel "The Dark Holds No Terror" describe about a women who was crudely raped her in night and tortured her. Sarita, who was a doctor in the morning but in night she was physically oppressed by her husband Manohor because of her social status is higher than him. He became a monster rapist at night and she could not tolerate his torture. This novel describes about the superiority of male in these patriarchy society and suffering of women in the hands of disparity.

### **Critical analysis:**

Shashi Deshpande is one the famous feminist writer and an award winning novelist. Her works raise a protest against the male dominated Indian society where women are denied the freedom to act according to their will and continue to suffer. The chief themes of her novels are the suffering and struggles of women in the middle class society.In her novel "The Dark Holds No Terror" she describe about women called Sarita, she is the protagonist of the novel. Sarita was a doctor in day time and in night she was physically

tortured in the hands of her husband. She led an isolated life in her women house. The novel begins with Sarita or Saru return to her father's house after fifteen years. She taught to never return back again once but she came back again to her father house to see her ill-father. It shows how she hates her father's house. Manohor is an English teacher in small college, he could not tolerate his wife's levelling up of social status. At the beginning Saru's husband is a normal person but when Saru become an established doctor he feel inferior so to control her, he started to sadist and give her a sexual torture. It reflects how the male dominate women in the society. Saru earn more than Manohor and when the society impose utterly the same amiable manner in front of Manohor it hurts his male pride so the society is also an important reason for the behaviour change of Manohor. His inferior complex manifest in the form of sexual abuse of her wife at night but in the morning he become a normal person. Sometimes he ask his wife what are these marks on your body but it was actually made by him. It shows that the society create a circle in which a woman must a subordinates and they should walk behind the heads of their husband not in front. It is not a fault of men also there is also women like Saru's mother who control her husband. Women's like her and society made the men to dominate women. Saru is not happy in her house because her treat her very badly and her father also not support Saru, so she feel envy of being daughter. Saru's mother treat her inferior to her brother Dhruva. After all these happenings she came back to her father's house not only to see her ill father but also to escape from her husband's sexual aggression towards her. After staying with her father she came to realize it is wrong to hide from problems and she had a chance to analysis and understand the relationship with her father, husband and her death mother. She decides to face the reality. Through her narration we can analyse the character of her father, death mother and brother and husband. In modern society everything been changed but not a struggle of women they still dominated by men. Women sacrifice every things for their family. When women are moving forwards to work in society to get an identity men cannot able to accept the role of women. Saru doesn't want to divorce her husband and saru is a strong women, she has the courage to protest against her oppression but she doesn't do that and not want break her family life, so she become a silent to accept her husband's sexual tortures. In these modern society peoples leading a mechanical life, due to these they had no opportunities to talk these leads to many consequences. Saru silently oppose her oppression but she is not having a courage to divorce her husband. This because she is living in India here marriage are considered as a sacred one. It bears social and spiritual significance but many men torturing their wife in our society. Modernity moves us to lots of improvements and also too many discriminate activities against women. This paper concludes that women struggling still now doesn't came to a conclusion. They became silent and adjusts every oppression against them. Women are being victimized in these modern society. Women are still struggles to get a freedom but they know the value of family and marriage in these patriarchy society.

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