

Human Values in Shashi Deshpade's Novel 'The Dark Holds No Terrors'

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Abstract- Men should follow some ethics to lead a better life. Indians teach good behaviors in the name of faith, culture and tradition. Humanism reflects in the name of freedom, impartiality and the betterment of women. Shashi Deshpande shows the betterment of woman, Sarita in her novel 'The Dark Holds No Terrors'. She shows the marital bond, sexual violence and Indian Masculinity in this novel. Here, we discuss about the woman position and incapability in the marital relationship and also about her realization and self-righteousness.

INTRODUCTION

Man is a social creature. He comes to the world and stays without help here. During this time he makes many relationships that agree on his life in the world. These relationships endow with a motivating study of human behavior. Men should follow some moral deeds to make a society. The society teaches valued behaviors in the name of religion, teaching moral classes and books. Books converse the theme of horror, romance, death, myth, science developments etc. These thoughts play the role of the theme in the books. But, every book teaches human values and moral instruction end. Shashi Deshpande is one of the Indian feministic writers in India. She also writes about morality, humanity, love and class, gender intolerance.

The term humanism had undergone various modification and transformation since the time of its inception. Different socio-cultural, political and philosophical developments have impacted this change. The major kinds of humanism have always been freedom, equality, dignity and sovereignty of men. Literature also reflects humanism and its numerous forms. Different writers write about humanism in their works on the basis of their understanding and experience. Shashi Deshpande also writes about humanism on the basis of her understanding. The concept of humanism centers on

an individual's liberation from oppression. It believes in the right of the individual to assert their free existence.

The novels in Indian Writing in English has taken up effectively and highly the theme of crusade against all kinds of social injustices like political dependence, class exploitation, caste and racial discrimination, gender bias, economic inequality and etc. Many writers including Mulk Raj Anand, Bhabani Bhattacharya, Anita Nair and Kamala Markandaya have made courageous attempts at a vigorous and artistic rendering of contemporary life. Shashi Deshpande can be placed in the same sort with such writers as she shares along with them the common air of giving a shock treatment to the society by sensational its maladies.

Shashi Deshpande has a positive approach towards humanism. She shows the concern for the growth of the individual in the area of self-fulfillment, brotherly love and equality. She has a unique feature to applying humanism in her novels. In order to understand and replicate Shashi Deshpande's novels, we need to take into account her dominant social, cultural and historical narratives, urban and rural Indian values. Most of the woman's experiences of human rights are violations are gendered, and many forms of inequity or abuse, occur because the victim is female. Majority of women in Shashi Deshpande's novels, who fall victim to human rights violations come from all sections- poorest, middle-class, Upper middle class, working women, vulnerable, elderly women, widowed women and men from all sects of the social order.

Shashi Deshpande shows her deep-rooted social consciousness by using literature as a weapon to fight aligned with the prevailing social order and evil which have crept into it. In 'The Dark Holds No Terrors', Deshpande tells the story of Sarita, who is a successful pediatrician quality grappling with the

horrifying truth about her husband, who turns a rapist each night. His sexual sadism is attributed to his inability to rise to the level of his wife professionally. This paper discuss about the context of sexual violence within marriage. The character Manu is Sarita's husband.

This novel narrates the point of view of Sarita its chief leading role. At the pinnacle of her success as a doctor, she finds herself confused and battered as her husband Manu attacks her every night with sexual rough treatment. She is filled with dread and shame at being abused by her husband whom she has married against the wishes of her parents. The novel opens with a prologue uttered by Sarita:

“Now there was no waking, the dream, the nightmare, whatever it was, continued. Changing now, like some protean monster, into the horror of rape. This was not to be by strangulation; it was a monstrous invasion of my body. I tried to move, twisting my body under the weight that pinned it down. It was impossible. I was pinioned to a position of an object surrender of myself”. (11- 12)

Manu begins his sexual assaults because of his sense of worthlessness and hopelessness. He feels as though he is robbed off his manhood by not earning more than his wife. Since he is unable to match her or supersede her proficiently, he does what men have been doing for ages to assert their power over women. They share their sufferings as well as love with each other. It should not show tyranny of women. The husband should not show their sexual violence in the name of marriage. Shashi Deshpande shows the inability of Sarita in her novel, ‘The Dark Holds No Terrors’.

The Indian male as established earlier creates his characteristics around his profession and his possessions. In Manu's case, the deficiency of both leaves him with a feeling of being castrated. His profession does not give him a valid identity and his wife snatches from him what is traditionally due to his ilk- to be financially superior and self-governing. It defines the lopsided gender equation, discussed within the context of inner-city marital relationships. Manu, the man, is a complete failure according to the idea of Indian manliness. In order to restore his manhood and to emphasize his power, he sexually assaults his wife. Here it is imperative to note the importance men give to money and wealth and their role in the construction of a manly identity. It is only

when the foundations of his identity are challenged that Manu uses rape as a weapon to rein in his wife and show her, her legal place within marriage.

Though her characters, Shashi Deshpande accessible the values which are to be developed and inculcated among the younger generation. Her sustain of human values is exhibited through her woman character, Sarita. At the end of the novel, Shashi Deshpande makes Sarita to become conscious that the vice in her that is the ego in her is responsible for all the problems that crept in her life. Sarita understands that one has to be sufficient within oneself, because there is no refuge to another place. Though the character of Sarita, Shashi Deshpande teaches many invaluable human values which need to acquire.

The novel reveals the quest of anxious, eager, ambitious, self- assertive and self- virtuous woman. Her quest leads to uncover the strength in human beings which makes living a joyous opportunity. Hence the human values envisaged by Shashi Deshpande seem a fusion of the polarities of being reception and rejection; flexibility and rigidity; fantasy and reality; rebellion and reconciliation.

REFERENCES

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