



Women Self Assertion in the novel of Jai Nimbkar

Shailesh Pralhad Ware

Introduction:

Feminism is an admirable word and feminists are considered well meaning people. In the beginning perhaps feminism meant only fighting for women's rights and getting them forcefully from the male society that has usurped them. So, women feminists in the beginning were theoretical to be people commotion at their husbands and the male society in general. Feminism has developed and society too has realized the positive contribution of feminists towards an evenhanded society. The fighting for women's rights is a part of the fight for human rights because women are equal partners of men in integrating human civilization. Desire for autonomy and freedom is an important attribute of every human being which implies also woman.

Women status in almost all communities and cultures simply depends on the biological fact, which restricts her to affect the familiar role. She should deny her 'self' and compromise as well as sacrifice life, which is a natural phenomenon in society, consequently relegates women to the secondary position. So, they have started analyzing their innermost yearnings for self liberation and self-identity. It has made them to move towards self assertion. Observably, all these issues have influenced society to think again about the status of women. Hence the image of women created by early writers oscillated them between Sati Savitri and to westernized modern woman. But it does not please most people.

Feminist writers as activists, portray women with an almost missionary zeal who fight against the injustice and the oppression perpetrated by male prejudice. In India particularly feminist writers relate the theme of feminism with economical and political issues as well. It is because these things question the inequality of the sexes and insecurity of women in society. So, these writings are always seen to be concerned with the social problems of women that are typically India-based. The Indo-Anglican writers during the early phase of imitation show considerable mastery over English language and versification but they also sowed the seeds for the new phase of Indianisation, by writing with a national consciousness. They interpret the mind and heart of India to the west. Srinivasa Iyenger says: "women novelists of quality have begun enriching Indian fiction in English. Of these writers, Kamala Markandaya and Ruth Praver Jhabvala are unquestionably the most outstanding." Anita



Desai, Jai Nimbkar, Nayantra Sahgal, Santa Rama Rau, Shashi Dshpande are also some other most important names to be mentioned in this connection.

The existential pressure created during the journey of women from tradition towards the modernity, is voiced by women writers is well embodied in their most significant fictional works. Their literary works are related to the problematic self-location emphasized in the man woman relationship, female biological illusion, mythological illusions and women's emancipation and feminine sensibility. Myths are still more powerful in Indian due their stability and effect in our lives since a long period.

Jai Nimbkar as one among the eminent feminist writers delineates feminism in all her three novels. In these she had portrayed woman in her quest for identity, who struggles with all the hurdles and the rigidity of the social system. To show this quest the author very carefully deals with the theme of marriage in Indian the context. Here, in this chapter we have a deep analysis of the characters of the women protagonists with regard to theme 'the quest for self identity'. Jai Nimbkar being a meticulous craftsman and a conscientious, stylistic writer, she often gathers stories for her novel from the trivia of daily life to create art. She breaks new ground in the world of Indian English fiction. Her women protagonists are intelligent who are in the eternal quest for their identity. Thus, the protagonists aspire to get something unique from their life, and their desire ultimately succeeds for them to realize their identity fully. Here, in her all three novels the central theme is the existential quest for identity which is projected through incompatible couples, educated and intelligent wives and ill-matched husbands.

In Jai Nimbkar's view a literary artist must have a direct or indirect involvement with society and must have real relevance in their works, as all writers are social reformists too. Hence, she always highlights marriage and women issues which always revolve around social problems in her own inimitable way. Having started at a comparative young age of twenty-eight, Jai Nimbkar has contributed largely to the literary scene with her unique three novels. Her Female characters approach as integrated individuals who very well synthesize both personal and social lives in a harmonious way. She successfully depicts the oppressed and suppressed condition of the women in the so-called under-dog society. She reinforces the female dilemma in the discourse to get equal opportunities. Indian women always try to realize their identity within the confines of the socio-cultural milieu. Jai Nimbkar sketches her female protagonists in such a way that they never spoil the bliss of their marital status. But always these new women get their middle way out to solve their problems intelligently.



They are neither meek nor weak, nor do they compromise and succumb to the male patriarchy. Jai Nimbkar is a very conscious writer that she never allows her female characters to cross the boundaries socially of the plutonic relationship. Vineeta, Jyoti and Ann are the three central female protagonists of her three different novels. They face all hurdles of their life very boldly and very intelligently and achieve their aim to get their identity. They are able to control their emotions and set up a smooth pleasurable life before any damage is done to their harmonious lives.

Moreover these women do not want to harm other's freedom or identity in their journey to get their own. No doubt, they are strong and determined but they achieve their will after a conscious analysis of each and every aspect of life. They think in all directions, into the past, onto the present and into the future as well. Jai Nimbkar comes out as a successful feminist writer who very minutely observes the psychological conditions of the women and their reaction to the surroundings. So there is full-fledged realism in her writings. She also makes for her readers enough of sarcastic account of the gender conflict in Indian society. Her novels are rich with Indian family relationships, social conventions and ethnicity as well as cultural and traditional beliefs. Her female protagonists face problems of life like other women do and fight against the patriarchal canons. The search for self, self-analysis and a probe into the existential vacuum in women are the main methods in her novels.

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