



## Feminism in Jai Nimbkar Novels

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### Abstract

The status of women in Indian society when we concern that time we can say that the status of women in Indian society not better than European women. The modernization in European society came in 17<sup>th</sup> century. 17<sup>th</sup> century concern as a social awakening era in Europe. When the process of social awakening happened that time the women also participated in that process. But in India social awakening happened in 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the issues i.e. Sati Partha, Child marriage, widow, women education were the traditional things which happened in Indian society. British empire prevented the Sati Bandi in 1829. British empire made law against this tradition. But some of the social thinkers i.e. Raja Rammohan Roy, Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve, Justice Madadev Ranade, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, etc were did some work to prevent such a traditional things which provided the platform for discrimination.

**Keywords: Women Status, Tradition**

### Introduction:

The woman is no longer a Sita or Damayanti. She has changed her age old traditional role as a compromising and sacrificing one. Now -a- days there is no place, where woman is not there, shoulder to shoulder, with man. Modern woman is now not in the marginal status but in equal status. As a reaction to this, male society feels insecure for their status and is tempted to commit atrocities against women so as to conquer them. Now-a-days, in news papers and other media we daily come across incidents of wife- burning for dowry, female infanticide and rape. According to a global poll conducted by Thomson Reuters — “India is the ‘fourth most



dangerous country' in the world for women and the worst country for women among the G20 countries.”(1) So, it is very important for the society to give protection to women and to give justice to the victims of atrocities. Society where once women were worshipped as Goddess is getting detached from the roots and everybody here is becoming degraded only due to male ego. Here the first question arises why and how woman is becoming vulnerable to the violent instinct? Why the protector mother (Janani) is failing to protect herself from her own world? No doubt, the Government of India is encouraging the equal status of women by enacting laws. 'The National policy For the Empowerment of Women', passed in 2001 and the Bill for 33% Reservation for Women, in 2010, is the important steps taken by the Government. But still there are some dark corners. So, this is the reason why women of every class, creed or religion are not enjoying completely the rights given to them. But whatever the situation of women is, they have to change themselves. Woman should not be weak to find out herself identity. Still now after decades of struggle they have achieved their success at every field. Furthermore they have to be bold enough to stand firm and resist every crime. Women have to organize themselves into groups to support all victims of atrocities.

### **Meaning of Feminism:-**

Past circumstance and traditional values have oppressed women since ages. It is the cause of feminist movement in India, which is different from that of western feminism. In fact the sexual dichotomy is not only biological but is also a social construct. The reason for women's suffering is not only due to patriarchy but also due to some structural hierarchies and injustice in our society. As India has a heterogeneous culture so here multiple patriarchies operate. No doubt, Indian feminism is influenced by western feminism but it is different in concept due to historical and social differences in culture. First in India women's issues began to be highlighted when the state commissioned a report on the status of women to a group of feminists for public awareness. These woman's issues so created led to the



feminist movement. Feminism as a concept clearly analyzes the male's advantaged position and the female's sub-ordination. It describes the fight for equality with men and protests against the sub-servant role given to women in society. It is a movement to end gender bias as inequality, exploitation and oppression. In simple literary terms feminism is a concept which challenges the patriarchal cannons. It began in 1960's and sensitized society about the subordinate position of women. In fact feminism argues that sex is biological whereas gender is social and this social bias sees female sex as adjunct to male.

There are a lot of writers who have immensely contributed to raise the voice of feminism. They have focused their attention towards the women's world with introspective intensity and authenticity. In almost all fiction women are portrayed as resourceful human beings who can move from the age of subservience towards self identity. Some women novelists represent their women as anti-patriarchal who can analyze their problem of self identity and can fight for equal rights. Unfaithfulness in love and physical exploitation of women are always the perspectives in the description of the women who have become victims of male and are the main topics in any kind of writing in the Indian women novelists. Some of the female novelists i.e. Jai Nimbkar was well known female novelist who basically described the situation of women in Indian society in their novels.

#### **Jai Nimbkar – As A Feminist Novelist:-**

Jai Nimbkar belongs to a well known family; she has inherited social, educational values of which her writings are a direct outcome. Moreover she herself is a student of Psychology and Sociology. So, social concern is a hallmark of her fiction. She has written about a variety of problems concerning Indian women. Her writings highlight the inequality of the sexes, the place and the status of women in the family and society, the search for self identity of women, particularly in the context of post - independence era. Nimbkar explores myriad facets of loneliness in her protagonist's life. This is deeply rooted in her soul.



She highlights marriage relations and also the role of women as ‘the mother’. Her novels are not only protest against the strong patriarchal norms but also highlight the self-victimization of her protagonists. She presents her women characters who reject male domination and can say very courageously “Give me a real chance to deal with my own problems in my own..” Vineeta – In novel ‘Temporary Answers’. They need liberty, equality, compatibility and self-reliance but without being cut off from family and society. Her characters are torn between search for an authentic existence and the limitations of traditions. They can register their protest in varying degrees. Mrs Nimbkar has written only three novels such as ; ‘Temporary Answers’ (1947), ‘A Joint Venture’(1988), ‘Come Rain’(1993). All the central women characters of these novels are modern, educated and bold. They are not meek and self sacrificing women of earlier times. So, the new woman in her novels faces her problems on her own, bravely and intelligently. The novels highlight the internal conflict of the woman as an individual of society, who has her own ideal of life as distinct from that of society. In general Indian women protagonists are portrayed in such a way that they are tied with the socio-cultural milieu from which they want to free themselves. Nimbkar’s women protagonists (whether she is Ann, jyoti or Vineeta) are progressive and capable of analyzing their situation to deal with their own. Vineeta in Mrs Nimbkar’s first novel ‘Temporary Answers’ is quite an educated and strong-willed woman but she is not rebellious like Shobha De’s characters. Here, in this novel Jai Nimbkar very prominently deals with the theme of inequality between the sexes and of marriage relations. As a widow the central protagonist analyses her personal problems and makes herself strong enough to live independently. Jyoti in the second novel ‘A Joint venture’ is a middle class intelligent woman. She feels happy with her married life in the beginning but later she finds that she has been cheated since last thirty years. Both her children separate themselves from their parents. Her unquestioning acceptance made her feel the sharp edge of relations in between her



husband and children. Her husband's self centered decisions makes her to feels like losing her personal identity. Nimbkar has a clean insight of women's adjunct position in the society. So, her novels depict in an indirect way the protest against cruel patriarchal norms. She not only highlights the sufferings of Indian women but also throws light on the psychology of a foreign bride in Indian family like the protagonist, Ann, In the novel 'Come rain'. She is an American but values Indian traditions. Ann here is not only a victim of patriarchal norms but also of age old Matriarchy of Mother-in-laws too. In the end as she is a well cultured, educated woman she analyses her own problems and gets a middle way out to preserve herself identity as well as her own relations simultaneously.

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