



ANITHA NAIR'S LITERARY AND ARTISTIC SKILL IN PICTURIZING THE IMPACT OF WOMEN WITH A QUEST FOR SELF-IDENTIFY AND SELF-RELIANCE A BRIEF ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This Paper attempts to establish Anita Nair as one of the modern Indian writers occupying a place of repute in the current literary scenario. with a special focus on her artistic and literary skill in highlighting the feminine sensibility and impact of women in her fictional world. It neatly exhibits her artistic power in picturizing the female status and her stand in the modern Indian social structure in spite of their life passing through a train of suffering and agonies using their tortures and sufferings and powerful weapons to fight against all sorts of injustices meted out to women in the society.

Keywords: Male Domination, Suffering, Rights for Independence, Injustice, Betrayal in Marriage.

Anita Nair is one of the leading novelists who has contributed a lot to modern English Fiction dealing with feminine and psychological issues related to women's life in the society. Born on 26th Jan, 1966, She is an established Indian writer graduating in English Language and Literature. In the very beginning, Nair was a creative director in an advertising agency in Bangalore. For her first book, she received a fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Nair's second book was published by Penguin India. Her novels **The Better Man and Ladies Coupe** have been translated into 21 languages. Her other notable works are **Mistress (2003)**, **Adventures of Nonu**, **The Skating Squirrel (2006)**, **Living Next Door to Alise (2007)** and **Magical Indian Myths (2008)**.

The very of this article 'The Impact of Women' in the novels of Nair with reference to **Ladies Coupe**, **Better Man** and **Mistress** tries to explore issues like rape, male -domination and betrayal in marriage. It also discusses women's rights for independence, woman as wife, daughter and mother and related psychological issues. Nair's women characters suffer but their sufferings turn out to be weapons to fight injustice. Akila , the central figure of the Novel **Ladies Coupe** poses a question, "Is Man needed for Woman?". She finds an answer to this query on her way to Kanyakumari in a Ladies coupe. Margaret Shanthi in **Ladies Coupe** is a chemistry teacher. She is married to Ebenezer Paulraj a paradigm of male dominance. He persuades her to complete B.Ed. This attitude of her husband changes her life style; she finally triumphs in getting her freedom from her husband. Janaki, a house wife in **Ladies Coupe**, stands for ritual practice and customized tradition. According to her, women must be a good daughter, sister, wife, mother and must depend on some men in their life. Sheela, a fourteen year old girl is very sensitive, who understands what is 'life' and what is 'male domination'?

Marikolundhu , a servant, comes from a poor family. She and her mother work as coolies in a Chettiar's house. There the chettiar's son Murugesan seduces her. She is able to love Chettiar's grandson but hates her own son Muthu, the one who has escaped from abortion. All these women in a way experience repression in the male - dominated society.

In **Better Man**, a quest for identity, self realization is explicit. Here Nair portrays women's aspiration for freedom in marital life, freedom in establishing healthy husband- wife relationship. Anita Nair in her novels illustrates how correlation plays a vital role in human lives. Modern Indian women's search for revival of relationships leads her to explore the emotional ecology that is central to women. Nair 's protagonists make unrelenting efforts to swear themselves that they are doing the right thing. Her women characters direct their efforts to wipe down the negative image persisting in man. "Marginalization and Centralization are common in a woman's life. An Indian woman has been either venerated as a goddess or rejected as a siren. The modern Indian woman has to compete against these two extreme images. She is striving to lead the lead of a normal human being with normal desires."(Manohar 22)

Anita Nair's novels present, no doubt, the women's struggle for existence amidst traumatic psychic experience. She traces women's journey from self-sacrifice to self -realization."The changing pattern of man-woman relationship is presented not only in the novels but also in films and television serials. Bold themes and diverse issues are now being taken up by the media. The mosaic of stories highlights the fact that man-woman relationship is a very complex and subtle issue."(Mukherjee 25). In **Ladies Coupe** Margaret undergoes tremendous crisis throughout her life. She is a docile wife devoid of freedom. She is highly obedient, saying 'yes' to whatever her husband says .But when she is forced for abortion, her love for her husband becomes hatred. , she utters a huge cry:



"I mouthed the words; I hate him.
I hate my husband. I hate Ebenezer
Paulraj. I hate him. I hate him."

(Ladies coupe, p 98)

Anjana in **The Better Man** enjoys independence and self satisfaction till she gets married to Ravindran. She wants to give the best to her husband, but, her mere conversation irritates him, he avoids her. She longs for love and freedom in married life. When it is declined, she endures pain, misery and fury. She hates everybody including herself. Devoid of healthy sexual life and conjugal bliss, she feels that she has been victimized by her conventional upbringing. She returns to her parental home only to escape the malignant attitude of her husband. Incompatibility between the husband and wife, incapability to understand each other, growing silence between them, have made their life panic. Anjana realizes that marriage has no meaning in her life. she wants to quit. She gives up everything.

"She gave away her colourful saris and took
to wearing starched cottons in shades as inspid,
dull as her life. She locked up all her
jewellery in a safe deposit box at the bank
and swept all her flipperies away into the
waste basket."(BM P234)

Anjana protests against oppression of any kind, she demands freedom, equality and justice. Anita Nair in both her novels presents victimized women in patriarchal system. In **Ladies Coupe**, the novelist depicts an Indian woman supporting her family in the midst of misfortune. In **The Better Man**, she draws a picture of women who fight for security and decency in love and marriage. The novelist explores the inner mind of depressed women with psychological insight to set right their emotional imbalance in a male - dominated society.

The characters commit adultery and blasphemy in **Mistress**. They break the existing social norms. Anita Nair portrays brave, daring and courageous characters who indulge in sex, extra marital affairs before marriage. Her argument is that one has to remove adultery to save family life. She emphasizes a truth that women, in spite of economic independence, liberty and education, are still controlled and dictated by others. The main character Radha being dissatisfied with her husband Shyam selects Chris for extramarital relationship, later Shyam magnanimously forgives her. Anita Nair's women, for their sexual desire choose men other than their husbands. Self realization is the dominant motif of the characters. They realize it when they are out of human bondage. "Nair's India suffers from a patriarchal system which has tried in many ways to repress, humiliate and debase women. The question she poses in the novel not only shakes the ideological ground of man's patriarchal role in the traditional society but also imply the existence of alternative reality." (Sinha.149). Thus, this article on 'the impact of women' reveals the changing role of women in the Indian society. She has effectively presented the post-independent women, the predicaments imposed upon them and their fight against society to come out from their predetermined roles. Nair in all her novels has dealt with gender issues, women subjugation and their clash between traditions and modernity besides a quest for self-identity and self-reliance.

Works Cited

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