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**Gender and the Language of Torment in Shashi Deshpande's *The Dark Holds No Terror*****Satendra Kumar**

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Email Id- [gunjan.sushil@gmail.com](mailto:gunjan.sushil@gmail.com)**Abstract**

The present research paper centers on the aspects of torments and situations in marital relationship. In most of the works of Shashi Deshpande there is profound considerations of the confinement and bondage in marriage and rummage for identity. The inner emotions of the characters have been finely presented in the works of Deshpande. Her chief characters appear to swing like a pendulum between convention and innovation. Men appreciate each kind of flexibility in conventional society. They can express their thoughts, visions and sentiments around nearly everything. Female characters are assumed to be continuously quiet and tame. Considering the history of mankind since the first light of the civilization men apparently have been regarded as the legislators, forcing his specialist ideas on the women without informing them. There has been segregation, classification and labeling as solid and powerless, male and female, culture and nature, tall and small on the two inverse posts of the same social status and scale. In due course, these thoughts, practices and visions got the institutionalized shapes.

**Keywords:** Callous Mother, Indifferent Father, Sadist Husband, Lecherous Colleague

Meaning of being women in modern India is now regarded no longer being dependent. We should respect each of them not because of gender but because of their identity. We must agree that both men and women equally contribute to the development of home and community. It is seen that women are reaching greater heights, positions, places like mountains and even travelling to the space. They are entering into all fields and are making success every field of activities and professions. In this gender-based society which separated on this ground, a boy is continuously synonymous with flexibility and freedom and a young girl child is synonymous with servitude.

Shashi Deshpande's novel, *The Dark Holds No Terror* presents a struggle of a working woman whereas her husband, Manohar, is simply a teacher. Sarita is the protagonist. She has been portrayed as a famous doctor. This professional and educational gap creates a gap between

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them. Manohar has truly got fed up with individuals thumping at the entryway. This actually irritated Manohar. In this patriarchal society male members did not tolerate a kind of behavior that they are not given importance and treated as low being. Sarita's ubiquity and fame are expanding leaps and bounds. Now Manohar under the fit of anger said that I am sick of this place. His identity was based on her identity. Now this was a kind of intolerant situation for him. She was socially and financially dominant to her husband.

Though a woman is superior to her husband yet in the traditional society it can never be accepted. Manohar presently started feeling inadequacy and inferiority complex and once man's sense of self is exceptionally much harmed when a female writer inquired one exceptionally aggravating address. "How does it feel when your wife not only butters but most of the bread as well". This was very irritating to Manohar. Now for him nights started becoming terribly unfit. A night he ruins her physically as well as mentally. Now he assumes twisted personality and has become a man of dual identities. A kind, cheerful life partner by the day but disgusting assailant at night. Sarita also started seeing herself as having two in one; a specialist in white coat in day and a caught and tortured lady by night. Sarita rejected her guardians to wed Manohar who demonstrates to be a villain in her life.

There are so many points when we start looking on the journey of Sarita. We find that the novel is basically trying to show the struggle of a working woman. She actually rejected the family for MBBS and again in order to settle in her life. Now Sarita's autonomy is questioned by both her mother and her husband. She becomes dejected and while addressing the girls in a college she says, "I think it is a kind of message to all the women living in Indian society, a wife must always be a few feet behind husband, if he is an M. A. you should be a BA, if he is a 5'4 tall you should not be more than 5'3, if he is earning 500 you should not earn more than 499. That is the only rule to follow if you want a happy marriage life".

She addresses all and asks them not to reverse the patriarchal set up otherwise both will suffer the disastrous situations and conditions in life. For good relationships it is required to forget your knowledge, learning and profession. Being doctor, nurse, executive, secretary, principal, teacher does not give certainty for happy marital relationships or even good relationships. Each and every member whether present or coming in future suffer the consequences of bad relationships. The novelist does not depict Sarita as a human surrendering herself before the adverse circumstances. Whenever her individual self is hurt, she tries to face is boldly.

Motherhood and motherly behavior in its many forms is an underlying theme and subject matter in most of her works especially in the relationship between mother and daughter and also relationship between husband and wife. All these aspects which one finds in novel are reflections of her sagacious observation of relationship in the society. From her novel it is clear that she focuses more on society and its effects on relationships at many levels. It is clear from her novels that this sense of social consciousness has been a constant part of her life right from her childhood.

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Her marital life, her relationship with her mother is inevitably linked to her novel. What happens in the novels of Shashi Deshpande, it can be certainly expressed the realizations that her novels are women centric in narrations and presentation. Women are the central characters in her novels and short stories even in her talks. If one is supposed to find the development of the characters of the novels of Shashi Deshpande, one will find out that they are not simply the victims of circumstances of family, society and situations. What happens over the decades we find a kind of change in the characters, that they emerge as self-assured, self-empowered and articulate personality. They live behind limit and limitations. They try to cross the barriers and conventional norms that is the true picture you find in the novels of Shashi Deshpande.

The picture of modern and active women who are responding against the patriarchal framework, have been imperatively discussed in the works of Deshpande. The topic and treatment point out to the delineation of the anguish and struggle of hard-working women in the firmament of India conventions. There are various situations which present the cutting-edge lessons to all women. Indian women are caught between the patriarchy and convention in one hand and self-expression, independence and autonomy for the women on the other hand.

It may be a certain kind of feeling that presents the self-confirmation which emerges from a person's appreciation of their possess capacities and qualities. This makes individuals feel great, they hold esteem, this moreover gives rise to a feeling of believe and individual strengthening. Most of the women do not think about the significance of man's feeling in certain ways and to be completely fair with you, since all feel so feeble to men in common. They do not really think about themselves as being an important ingredient to a man's confidence. On top of this a lot of women have a lot of fear about men becoming confident. So, these are the aspects which are abundantly explored the characters of Deshpande. They are hurling between two worlds, one world is the world of patriarchy, convention and tradition and other is the world of self-expression, distinction, freedom and freedom.

The works of Deshpande investigate the ideas that women must be esteemed as human beings and they must be liberated from the conventions which are disturbing their identities. They must be given proper respect as a spouse, sister, girl and mother. On the whole her works are examined to understand some characters like Indu of *Roots and Shadows*, Sarita of *The Dark Holds No Terror* Jaya of *That Long Silence*, Urmila of *the Official Vine*, Sumi of *A Matter of Time*. They appear in states of perplexity at the starting but gradually stories unfurl they go through a handle of self-contemplation, self-analysis and self-realization. So, all her novels are like journeys from the lives of accommodation to the life of autonomy and self-realizations. And at the conclusion, they rise as bold and defined women of great characters. They control of themselves and altogether more cheerful towards a shining and positive future. *The Dark Holds No Terror* clarifies the part of patriarchy within the society, and how patriarchy chooses each and everything which happens within the life of woman. It, moreover, depicts the limitations and problems of working women, which is a kind of new experiment and phenomenon in Indian English fiction. In this novel she talks about the topic of distance conjointly a kind of revolt to break the matured quietness.

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In this novel reader came to a discovery that the central character reviews her hitched life with wistfulness. At the conclusion she gives an unused picture of an Indian woman, who tries to state her singularity and looks for to break the matured ancient quietness by denying to move to the tune of her spouse. In this basic story there lies the grand swell of disappointment and loveless married life which has been compared with the assistance of a wonderful picture. When Jaya says “A combine of bullocks jogged together” but the reality was that we were as it were two individual a man and a woman. There, moreover, is a subject of existentialism, which is additionally clarified by Shashi Deshpande.

It is basic to get it fair how imperative certainty is within the life of man. Presently, it cannot be declared that men are not the same as it was required with certainty. Certainty benefits both men and women, but it plays exceptionally extraordinary part in a man’s life. It is the key to his manly characteristics. You can think of confidence as being just like the fundamental antecedent for him being in his control and manliness. That is where those things you adore almost being in a relationship with a man really comes from. Those great things that you just adore almost being in a relationship with a man things like assurance, control, positive possession, duty, administration, activity, activity, commitment, course, developments, quality, center, development, issue understanding and liberality, more often than not depend intensely on certainty.

In this novel the central character says that nothing between us, nothing between me and Mohan either we live together but there had been only emptiness between us. So, there is all such kind of themes. There are the themes of patriarchy, marriage, sex, extra-marital relationship, and violence and death, fragmentation, reconciliation, revolt, silence, self-belief and self-confidence. So, these are the themes of most of her novels. Now in this novel *The Dark Holds No Terror* the central character that is depicted as a new woman. In the novel the story is depicted of a girl child named Saru or Sarita. Who falls the victim of her mother’s sexist and gender-based-biased outlook. And this sexist and gender based biased approach leaves an indelible impression upon the mind of the character and she became claustrophobic. Her mother once said on the death of her brother “Why are you still alive? Why didn’t you die?” This is actually a statement of a mother for her daughter.

Because mother had sexist and gender-based bias. She was very cruel towards her daughter. Now every time she was being scolded by her mother. So, the tantrums of her mother developed in the daughter the psychological fear throughout the life. The life she is making the desperate attempt to overcome the initial victimization and assert her identity as an autonomous individual in life. The central character who is generally the narrator and the novelist tries to adopt the stream of consciousness technique.

It is important to know that one of the more ‘doomed’ dynamics that men and women tend to get into the situation where they both feel like they flipped on one another. Of course, this very quickly turns into which came first the chicken or the egg? Argument, however, the man in this scenario often feels like in the beginning of the relationship the women had nothing

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but positive appreciation for him and liked everything about him, and all of a sudden, she flipped into this hyper critical person who is not happy.

The novel is trying to depict the meaning of being a woman in modern India. Now this is the point which we must remember that in all these novels she is trying to depict the meaning of being a woman. The women who have so far been oppressed and suppressed by the patriarchy and society were silent but this silent cannot be maintained for a very long time. This silence erupts in the form of a volcano and destroys the whole patriarchal system.

So, in the novel *The Dark Holds No Terror*, the writer is attempting to portray the picture of a modern and contemporary women really crossing the boundaries, crossing the routine standards and attempting to build up herself as a person and creating her own identity. Presently this novel embraces the cinematic strategy of streak back and streak forward. In one of the interviews which was published in *The Hindu* newspaper on Sep 05, 2004, Shashi Deshpande talked on Time as one of the vital gadgets utilized in stream of awareness procedure and for her time is exceptionally critical. Presently around time she says that how can we divide human life into sections like past display and future, and she says that it's quite difficult to separate past from the display or show from the long run. Past show and future are interrelated. In the opening of the novel, it is discovered that the central character of novel is Sarita. She comes back to her parental domestic. When she enters domestic streak back starts, presently she goes into the past. The genuine substance of the novel lies within the mental prepare that Sarita goes through amid her clearly eventless presence at the father's put. As she was not given any kind of significance within the house fair since she was a young lady child.

So, when she enters the house, she recalls the memories of the past and she finds that her life was eventless. She was mistreated by her parents, especially by her mother. She analyses each and everything which happened in her life. She introspects, judge's life and relationship,

Now, she steps into this confusion about how all of a sudden, he needed up with a man who is so unhappy with her. On the woman's side what she usually feels like is that in the beginning of the relationship a man stepped into the relationship. Exhibiting all these positive masculine taints that made her fall in love with him. Only flip into the exact opposite. So, then she ends up feeling duped. As if she is tempted the relationship based on someone who he isn't actually. Most the women are not going to look at your face and say this. Most women actually want and need the men they are with to a large, but at the same time have a lot of fear around the man. Presently expansive in this sense implies things like effective, things like certainty, things like solid. It does not necessarily cruel he must be tall.

When she unveils her mind, we find the story. In this story there is not only the callous or the cruel mother but also the indifferent father. There is sadist husband, womanizing professor and lecherous sex hunting colleagues. Sarita was the victim of all these circumstances. At the end of the novel, she makes a visit to her parental home as an escape from immoral acts of masculine superiority of Manohar and explains her father about her return after fifteen years of time when her mother dies. Her father was dominated by her mother when

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she was alive. Now she finds her father very capable. Her father helps her to regain will power. Eventually she realizes that escape is not solution. She decides to take the courage to face Manohar and struggle to break the conventional identity of submissive wife. Sarita shows her strong dissent against the persecution quietly but she is not prepared to require striking step like separate, because of her Indian attitude. So, she patches up the connection with Manohar.

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