

EMERGENCE OF NEW WOMEN IN SHASHI DESPANDE'S "THE BINDING VINE"

Article Particulars

Received: 27.01.2018

Accepted: 26.02.2018

Published: 27.03.2018

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Abstract

Shashi despande is one of the prominent contemporary women writers in India writing in English who has created ripples in the society of male domination by taking women as women seriously in her novels. She takes us inside the consciousness of her women characters to present their plight, fears, dilemmas, contradictions, ambitions and conflicts in a patriarchal society like India. Shashi despande's feminine ideology never discards Indian native traditions and social code of conduct. She presents the healthy form of feminism that need not oppose men through her characters. Her works are most probably deal with the problems and issues of contemporary middle class women. Her heroines are sensitive, intelligent and career-oriented. She poignantly expresses the frustration and disappointments of women and describes their bitter experience in the male-dominated society. Let us see about the women sufferings and protagonist's awareness in the novel The Binding Vine.

Keywords: *women misery, silence, sexual oppression, Patriarchy, from despair to hope.*

Introduction

Shashi despande novels expressed that woman's problems, and the status of women in their family. She does not against patriarchy but she denotes emotions of women. As a woman writer, she goes deep into the inner mind of the depressed women by virtue of their feminine sensibility and psychological insight and brings to light their issues, which are the outcome of Indian women's psyche and emotional inequalities in a male dominated society.

In this novel *The Binding Vine*, Shashi despande gives important strong character to educated woman, Urmi in this work of fiction. She has anchoring and motivates all women. She is bold, intelligent, effective and a good lecturer. Startingly, she has certain grief for her One year old daughter, Anusha. But Vanaa convinces her, she is a friend and sister-in-law to Urmi. Despande provides that how a mother accept her daughter's death. Such a image remains to her. In spite of Urmi tries to forget past and comes to present. Her husband works at Navy Office. He is distanced from her. She does not expect amount from his because she earns money independently. Men

dominate the other sex because of their economic status. But she is escaping from it. Perhaps the content of the word "female" will come to light.

Firstly, Urmi falls in love with Kishore at where she stays in Bajajji's house. After the marriage, they have separation from each other. On the night of their marriage, He sings the line from a popular Hindi movie, which translates into, we are trapped, and "He looked trapped" (TBV 137). She walks out of their bedroom. Shashi Deshpande puts that the emergence of new woman. The author wants to show feminine through this character. Women are equal to Men. Women are not inferior to Men.

One time Urmi goes to Akka's house there is, she see Mira's picture. Mira is Urmi's Mother-in-law and writes poem. At that time, Akka brings old trunk box with sorrowful. Urmi opens that it has full of papers and Mira's jewelry. Akka has replacement of Mira life. She is mother of Vannaa, She does not interest in marry Kishore's father. Even she gets marriage. Urmi takes all papers and she finds what the purpose of Mira's writing poetry. First her poem starts with new road, new age, and new name. This poem is opening to emergence of new woman. She reads what Mira wrote that "*This book is mine as all can tell, if you steal it you will go to hell, the girl who wrote 'strictly private and confidential' on her books.*" (TBV 40) Thorough this poem she knows her pains and sufferings. Kishore's father sees Mira at a marriage wedding. Mira looks like very beauty. He convinces Mira's family after They gets marriage.

His desires only lust but not love on Mira. He focused Mira only for his self satisfaction and she is sexual object to him. She shows her fears and male domination in her poem. Urmi represents imagination that she does not expose her ideas, thoughts and emotions to her husband when she writes this poem. She takes a room for writing this poem without her husband in house. If he understands her suffering, she will be happy and not to be written poem. Mira faced two problems in her life. First one is Venu, a poet. He is good inspiration of writing her poetry. He invites as chief guest to college function and Mira goes to him.

She already reads his poetry and it makes that her describe and writing in poetry. She wants to demonstrate her poems to Venu. But he renders male domination and "says that rare thing, a born poet." (TBV 127) Helene Cixous says, in her work *The Laugh of Medusa* "I shall speak about women's writing: about *what it will do*. Woman must write herself: must write about women and bring women to writing." (1)

Venu told Mira when she handed him to read some pages of poetry that she had written after mustering up courage, "Why do you need to write poetry? It is enough for a young woman like you to give birth to children. That is your poetry. Leave the other poetry to us men." (TBV 127) To quote Simone de Beauvoir,

"Since patriarchal times women have, in general, been forced to occupy a secondary place in the world in relation to men... in spite of the fact that women constitute numerically at least half of the human race", and that "this secondary standing is not imposed of necessity by natural feminine characteristics but rather by

environmental forces of education and social traditions under the purposeful control of men. (*The Second Sex*, 1983: 33)

Shashi Deshpande locates that why woman does not write poetry, they have equal rights to men. Women have all powers to do anything. Second one is Mira does not faced her husband directly; hence she writes her emotional poetry. She is not similar to Urmi to against her husband. Mira is unhappy for marrying her husband and his brutal in sexual subsequent to happy for her pregnant in her life. Lastly she is death after she produces her child, Kishore.

Next, Kalpana is sufferer of rape by her uncle Prabhakar. She is almost sufferer of sexual violence. "Sexual violence has become the taboo subject of feminist theory today. It is discussion in that context typically follows a predictable pattern, namely that of identifying the source of violence and its effects. Contemporary feminist theory, by contrast, tends to ignore the topic of rape in favor of more ambivalent expressions of male domination such as pornography and sexual harassment." (743-775)

Her mother Shakutai carries her three childrens are Kalpana, Sandhya and a son Prakash. Shakutai's husband leaves her that for other woman. She feels that her husband deserted her. Men do not understand women's feelings at society. The woman is born as free as man, but she finds herself constrained and curbed by the society.

Kate Millett in her book, *Sexual Politics*, explains that women ought to be given equal treatment in the society. She describes that the relation between the sexes are basically political. It is an arrangement "whereby one group of persons is controlled by the other". Shashi Deshpande holds a similar view in this matter and according to her the real 'crisis' in a woman's life is that her life is governed by other people. She wants a woman to take hold of her own life. A woman should dismantle the entire previous social 'roles' assigned to her and search for her real 'self'.

Shakutai belongs to lower class family. She feels that her child knows education, so she decides that Kalpana goes to Sulu's house. Sulu is sister of Shakutai and she marries Prabhakar but no children. She remarks that she is childless; as a result her husband will go to another woman. Sulu discussed with Shakutai that Kalpana will marry Prabhakar; She obtains all facility and co-wife. Although Kalpana refused to it and she recognize Prabhakar's character. She is very good-looking, wears model dress, nail polish, lipstick. Urmi imagines that Kalpana wants to live. One time, she goes to see Vanaa, a medical society worker, at hospital.

There is she heard the sound of Kalpana, struggles between life and death. Now she is loss of consciousness stage. The police investigates Kalpana's case but Shakutai is crying for inspect case since her family name undergo this rape case. She feels that second daughter's future by this Kalpana's rape case. Dr. Bhaskar reports to police that it is an accident. For a second time a journalist, Malcom meets Shakutai about her daughter's case but she does not say anything to him, shows only distress. Urmi bravely

faced him and tell about Kalpana's case. Next morning, Urmi and Vanaa notice Kalpana picture on Magazine. People gives reviews about Kalpana that the blessing and curse. Blessing for kalpana is victim of rape and cursed for Sulu's death. Sulu commits suicide when she heard that her husband assigns to crime. So she finds her life end in death.

Urmi explains to Vanaa that magazine on picture is good example of other women. Urmi takes all women with love together. She understands their inner feelings and distinguishes male domination. She has seen in her mother Inni's life that she elopes with driver Divakar, hence Urmi's father send her to Inni's house. Vanaa loves Harish and gets marriage. They beget two daughters Mandira and Pallavi. After the birth of children, he does not take care of his family. Vanaa only leads her family. In this part we are perceived that man importance to sexual desire but cannot lead their family.

Urmi takes Mira's poems published to press. Another woman knows what the sufferings in woman's life are and what is the problem faced by her. As a woman that a girl how dominated by man. These two events produced emergence of new women. Urmila is seen, at the end of the novel, recollecting the bonds of love that provide the "Springs of Life" (TBV 203) for human survival.

Conclusion

Silence is a major cause of emotional distress in women of Shashi Depande's novels. In this novel '*The binding vine*' Mira and Kalpana maintains silence. They take no any efforts against men. Lastly this novel ends with liberation by Urmi's confidants. She breaks silence and comes to new woman. Urmila draws society's attention to her protest, and there is less agony in attempting to change societal roles and attitudes. She is not a rebel against the patriarchal system because she believes that things are gradually improving though at a slow pace.

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