
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN THE NOVELS OF SHASHI DESH PANDE

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Abstract: The Novels ‘The Binding Vine,’ ‘A Matter of Time,’ ‘The Dark holds No Terror’ are the novels that carry the emotional feelings and empowerment of women. The main theme of these novels is to enrich and empower women characters. They undergo a better understanding of all kinds of situations beyond their usual sensibilities. ShashideshPande is always keen on exploring a complete loveable world and her novels are great symbols of everlasting love which prevails in all middle class Indian traditional families. Her novels make us feel that real life stories are more absorbed and enthralling than the artificial stories that we create. She feels proud to pure religion breathing household laws. In all her novels female characters prove that grief is a thought, a dream and Tomorrows gale that would sweep away and concentrates and finds way to empower themselves in the society.

Keywords: Conceptualize, Relished, Vicious, Motivators, Dis empower.

Introduction: The fruit of empowerment can be experienced and relished only if we enrich ourselves in all the ways. All ShashideshPande’s novels revolves and talks about the different skill sets that would empower and enrich women. Empowerment is perhaps like a journey through knowledge and experience to understand things beyond our usual sensibilities. ShashideshPande dwells on the themes of empowerment in domestic and in social life of women. The characters she draws are authentic in nature. All her characters are sourced from low middle class family who undergo a constant indifference of a patriarchal society. Her characters were conceptualized to bring the best in them and they brew themselves into a beautiful pot as the pages flipped over. Her characters beat it Urmi, Sumi, or Sarita empower themselves very tactfully and it is only because of them the story moves forward. The readers feel soempowered and enriched with her characters. Her constant endeavor is to empower women and to have keys to their own lives.

In the novel “The Dark holds No Terror.” The female protagonist was empowered professionally as a doctor but not as a wife. She was not able to bear the brutality of her husband that he imposed on her.

“And suddenly, when I thought I could bear it no longer, the body that was not mine relaxed. The release was so abrupt it shocked me into an unfamiliar faintness. When the sync off wore off, realized I was free. There was no weight pinning me down now. But I could not move, it was not just exhaustion, though there was that too. It was more as if my mind had deserted my shamefully bruised body, disowning it, making it insensate. The Dark holds No Terror (12).”

Be it human beings or animals, sleep is the only path to cross the burdens and to get through the next day. The rural common Indian people suffer from morning till evening besides their domestic responsibilities and bear no peace of sleep. Many

even undergo rapes in the form of marriage like Sarita.

He was like a bee in the beginning buzzing behind Sarita almost every minute. It was heaven, in spite of the corridors smelling of urine, the rooms with their dank sealed-in odors, women with inquisitive, unfriendly eyes, men with lascivious stares. And we were happy but now after enjoying the nectar. The Bee made him feel But why happiness always so unreal? Why does it seem always an illusion? It is grief that has a bulk, a weight, a substance and stays real even after years. Happiness is so evanescent, nothing is left. Except sensations and feelings. I became an instant a physically aroused woman, with an infinite capacity for loving and giving, with a passionate desire to be absorbed by the man I loved. All the clichés, I discovered, were true, kisses were soft and unbearably sweet, embraces hard and passionate, hands caressing and tender, and loving, as well as being loved was an intense joy. It was as if little nerve ends of pleasure and sprung up all over my body “The Dark holds No Terror (40).”

When Sarita’s husband came to know that she would out qualify him. He proved to be so vicious than ever. Many men have this phobia. When they know that their wives are so inferior to them and when they walk behind them. Their wives remain to be the sweetest darlings and they call them sweet hearts, when they find them marching forward. The same sweet hearts becomes devils and witches.

Sarita was waiting for someone to miraculously fall in love with her. Finally it was Manu. Her abnegation to his taste seemed wholly natural at first. Now for the first time, she found herself wavering, hesitantly, making her way back to her real self. I would like as myself to be. “But hunting for that life has rather like a dog scrabbling for a long buried bone. Piles of earth flew up, but where the hell was that bone? Or, had there never been a bone at all?”

The thing she knew she had lost forever ... “the eternal female dream of finding happiness through a man. It would never come alive for her again. Too soon, I lost it too soon, she thought and it was like a silent mourning wail inside her. “The Dark Holds No Terror”

Many times the absence of love and presence of hatred would lead to extramarital relationship and marriage becomes incompatible and lead to marital discord. But nothing as such happens in ShashideshPandes’s novel as her female protagonist is binded by cultural values. Her female protagonists search for the other parts of life and stand to prove that women are empowered.

In the novel “The Binding Vine” the female protagonist Mira is a poet who is enriched with writing skills, but retained all the enriched valuables as dark secret in the dark trunk. Her husband and father were poets who considered themselves to be great and discouraged her. When a man says a flower is beautiful. Yes it is beautiful. It has lovely petals and a slender stem but when a woman says it is beautiful. Then the question arises is it really beautiful? Male chauvinism still prevails in many parts. Nobody likes women to question, because women are like a church, a place of all answers. She is allowed only to answer and not to question. Mira was suspicious about her life and whether her poem would exist or extinct? “Huddled in my cocoon, a something silk worm
Will I emerge a beauteous being?

Or will, suffering, cease to exist (65) Vine”

Yes, this question had a positive answer not to her but to her soul. After Mira’s death, her beautiful poems gave lively life to the female protagonist Umi. The life of words is eternal forever.

She describes her marriage as a dark marriage .She described it as “Dark coloured engulfing nights “She hated the word love as it is uttered falsely by her husband. They called her mad, they who cocooned themselves in bristly blanks and thought themselves warm when I spoke myself of my that boiled and seethe (100) vine.”

Mira lost her mirth and her soul yearned for peace. She had an inability to accept the forced lovemaking of her husband and had no obsession to sex. She wrote

I give the facts, nothing more, never my feelings. He knows

What I am doing and gets angry with me. I don’t mind his angry. It

Makes him to leave me myself, it is bliss when he does that. But he

Comes back, he is remorseful, repentant, so it begins. ‘Please,’ he

Says, please, I love you, ‘And over and over again until he has done,

“I Love You, I Love You! How I hate the Word. If this is love it is a terrible thing.

I have learn to say ‘no’ at last. But is makes no difference at all.(Vine)

This is the fault of many women because women are as happy with jasmine flowers and clothes. They fall as a prey for all this. And praise their husbands without even realizing that they are losing their self identity. Don’t feel proud of a husband, who buys what you want, be proud of a husband who says you to go ahead and buy or do what you want? He is the man who makes you feel complete and make you remain what you are.

In the novel “The Binding vine” Kalpana is brutally raped and her mother Sakutai is scared of the image that would spoil her family. She neither raised voice against this violence nor allowed her relations to do it. Kalpana did not fight for her individuality. As many said In India, we get married not to the man but also to the man’s family. Another unique woman is Shakutai, mother of Kalpana. She was never contended with her life after her wedding. Her husband was an indolent and never bothered about his wife and kid. Without any guilt feeling, he allowed his wife to lead a life with Sulu, Shakutai’s sister. She wanted to die because it is only once and there is no more dying but then she sacrificed her life for her daughter. She had a beautiful dream about her daughter’s life but the dream was perished very soon as her daughter got brutally raped. Kalpana had a solicitous delight but very soon her life became dark and gloomy. Like many other Indian families Shakutai was scared of her second daughter’s wedding. She was mentally disturbed that her daughter Kalpana’s scandal would lament her second daughter’s life.

Urmi was taken care by her grant parents’ .Her father felt that her mother would not prove to best in child rearing, so he sent his wife to Ranidurg. Urmi’s mother Kalyani lived her married life in a thorny silence in the novel “The Binding Vine” Life is always a relation of past to present. Urmi also underwent the same. Some men are remain to be immoral and prejudice themselves by not talking to their wives for stupid invaluable reasons like:

1. Education
2. Dowry
3. Dark complexion
4. Inability to become a mother.

Women in the house are supposed to live as penury and serve only as maid servants to their husbands. Husbands have hundreds and thousands of reasons to treat them as objects, but women have only one reason to be with them because they are their husbands. In the novel “A matter of time” the protagonist Sumi acted as a male protagonist though she was not. Her husband failed as a husband and as

a father. So she carried all her three daughters to her mother's house. She remained responsible for the babies from womb to tomb.

"It's a kind of illness, a virus, perhaps, which makes me incapable of functioning as a full human being, as a husband and father..."

What have you done to my daughter, Gopala, don't do this, and don't let it happen to my daughter, what happened to me "A Matter of Time"

This is what happened way back in Thomas Hardy's novel "The Mayor of Caster Bridge". He was a real portrayer of character and environment. The hero of this novel Hen chard sold his wife in an auction as he felt that it would be burden to shoulder the responsibility. "I haven't more than fifteen shillings in the world, and yet I am a good experienced hand in my line. I'd challenge England to beat me in the fodder business; and if I were free man again I'd be worth a thousand pound before I'd done of it. But a fellow never knows these little things till all chance of acting upon them's past. "The Mayor of Caster Bridge". Men should learn to shoulder the responsibility as a son , husband and father.

Usually men become too old by the time sense and sensibility dawns them. In early married life she becomes forced maid servant for her husband. Later she becomes voluntary maid servant and nurse as her and family grows old. She never rejects them though she remains to be the one who made her life through experiencing rejection, ridicule, and humiliation.

This is our way of living and this is what is happening in our society generations after generations. ShashideshPande dwells on the themes of empowerment in domestic and social life. The characters she draws are authentic in nature. All her characters are sourced from low middle class family and undergo a constant indifference of a patriarchal society. They showcase an exceptional traditional purity in them. Her characters beat it Sarita, Urmi, Mira or Sumi, they are very tactful in dealing with problems and it is because of them the story moves forward and we feel empowered as our hands slips over the page. Her characters are conceptualized to always bring the best in them and they brew themselves into beautiful pots.

What do we do to change the topic as empowerment of men and women or empowered women? Stands as big question?

Emotional intelligence: This has something to do with women. She should learn not to react but to respond. Most of us tend to be on the verge of shedding tears twenty four seven. We shouldn't do that analysis of problem is more important. In times of Baby blues, we undergo a major mood shift and during menstruumsome women feel painful. So these are exceptional cases. But there should not be dirging saying why I took birth in the form of a

woman? We should use emotional intelligence to sense and reason our problems because the best solution takes time and patience. Our brain is like a wine, it gets finer and finer with age. All the parts of the body lose their strength and ability as it grows old but brain is the only organ which ends up in enriching with valuable knowledge and experience.

Cultural values: Women and men should realize that God created **woman** for man and not **women** for men. We are not supposed to go path that would mislead us. The Anti-prostitution law strictly says that the prostitutes would be strictly banned to report violence committed against them to the police. They would not receive any protection from the state and also always the murder of a prostitute is often ignored.

Physical and mental strength: Women should not remain silent in the place where they have to talk. It is our cultural inheritance to keep quite. Many articles say that women are prone to headache stomach pain and sexual defunct ions if they bottle up anger. It should be expressed in a well thought manner. We have complete rights for the two words YES and NO. If you are angry say yes I am angry with what you did and not with you.

Women's education and Accomplishments: Women should have an extensive reading to acquire the mind quality which has to be accomplished. The education of young women should be given more importance. Trainings like leadership qualities, soft skills should be imposed in rural parts of India. Early days Women learned to sing, dance to prove themselves as good daughters and wives. But *now* they should acquire all the skill sets to make them as empowered citizens. Girls should not take education for granted because that attitude would economically and emotionally disempower the family, society and the World.

Portrayal of women in the field of art and Literature:

I really wonder is there only women devil on earth?. In most of the movies only women are portrayed as witches. Perhaps Cinema is the greatest and fastest tool that would reach the rural women because they are blended with the characters. However let us portray the other side of women. As good teachers, doctors or any other higher officials who would be motivators to the society rather portraying them as mother-in-laws who torture the daughters- in laws and daughter- in -laws taking revenge on the entire family.

Place for treasure: If educated Indians moving abroad is loss for India. Then the old people moving away from our houses to old age homes are also a great loss for us. It is in the hands of youngsters to give their parents and grand parents to give them self confidence and try to remove the feel of inability in

them. Their age grows YES but at the same their experience also grows. It is we who give them the feel of insecurity for life by throwing words right-on their faces intentionally or unintentionally about their inability. Give your ears to them because it takes lots of time to experience something and then learn from it. It is not necessary that you have to learn certain things only through your own experience. We can learn from our parents and grant parents also.

Conclusion: The Brahma Purana says "To continue with creation, Brahma gave form to a Man a Woman. The man was Swayambu Manu and the woman was named Shatrupa. Humans are descended from Manu that is the reason they are known as Manaus." Manu is the root word for sanskrit Manushya and for English Man. Manu was born on his own with the Kaya of his

father Brahma. Khaya means Brahma and ya mean form. He looked like his father. It is clear that women are the creation of men.

Bible. Genesis 2,3 chapter 2. 22 "Then the rib which the lord God had taken from man he made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Many men in our society misunderstand this only Manu was born on his own with the Kaya of his father Brahma. Not all the men. They should deep ingrain in their minds that they first breathe in a womb.

If our minds bear the two words rib and womb, then together we hold hands and walk for the empowerment of our home, society and reach globally and make our birth meaningful and sensible. Let us be real Buma Devi's and Buma Devas who save the prestigious gift of almighty.

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