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## FEMINIST WRITER IN INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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### Abstract:

This paper is focusing on the women writing in English and the development of feminism throughout the English literature and the evolution of women's characteristics after the ending of the First World War. This was the time that women learnt to come out of their comfort zone and they loved to break their old stereotyped nature which was incorporated in them by the Patriarchal society. The paper has mainly mentioned the women writers like Virginia Woolf, Dorothy Richardson and Katherine Mansfield. In the English literature of the early to mid-phase of 20<sup>th</sup> century one could see the perfect differentiation between man and women that has been made by multiple feminist writers. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, literature has developed as well as the society and the position of women with respect to men. Nonetheless, it was the crucial movement that has started this revolution of equality between men and women.

**Keywords:** Feminism, British History, crucial, revolution, equality, patriarchal

Women play very important role in a considerable position in our society from their birth till the end of life. Even after playing all her roles in a proficient manner in the modern society, she is considered feeble because men are still well thought-out as the strongest gender of the society. Even after lots of consciousness programmers, rules and regulations in the society

by the government, a women's life remains more convoluted than a man. She has to take care of herself and family members in performing various roles of daughter, sister, daughter-in-law, granddaughter, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, etc. In spite of her family responsibility she is able to come out and do job for bright future of own, family and country. Women's literature is writing done by women as has often defined by publishers. Though obviously this is true, many scholars find such a definition reductive. The reason that makes the history of women's writing so interesting is that it has created interest in many ways and it is a new area of study. The tradition of women writing has been much ignored in the past due to the inferior position women have held in a male dominated society. It is still not to no purpose of to see literature classes or anthologies in which women are greatly outnumbered by male writers or even entirely absent. The obligation of women's literature, then, is to classify and create an area of study for a group of people marginalized by history and to explore through their writing their lives as they were while occupying such a unique sociopolitical space within their culture. During the initial days of literary history, women were themselves the only champions as they expressed their life and feeling through their writings and the readers were also majorly women. To take a glimpse of the beginning and growth of women writings, here are a few writers whose contributions had a great impact.

Women in the world have started to fight for their rights and independence since the beginning of the 19th century; the aim was to have the same opportunity for education, occupation and life as men. The perception of an independent woman has changed throughout the centuries as well, from a woman who was supposed to be daughter wife, mother, and keeper of a household, more precisely how Martin Luther claimed: "Women should remain at home, sit

still, keep house, and bear and bring up children. A woman is, or at least should be, a friendly, courteous, and a merry companion in life, the honour and ornament of the house, and inclined to tenderness, for thereunto are they chiefly created, to bear children, and to be the pleasure, joy and solace of their husbands," 1 to a woman who does not even need a man to find her happiness and her occupation can be whatever she wants.

#### **The Development of Feminism:**

The word feminism comes from French word *féminisme* and according to the Cambridge online dictionary feminism is "the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power, and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or the set of activities intended to achieve this state." 3 The term 'feminism' itself is used to describe a cultural, political or economic movement aiming for equal rights for both women and men. Nonetheless, the terms 'feminism' and 'feminist' did not gain widespread meaning use until the 1970s when they started to be used in the public parlance more frequently. The feminist movement involves sociological and political theories concerning with gender difference issues. The movement has been here for many decades, and British women have started to fight against the oppression during mid 1850s when the first feminists started to advocate their thoughts about inequality and when the first suffragette movement emerged, since then women have started working on accomplishing their goals to have the same rights and to have the same position in society as men have. The feminist framework also indicates how problems are defined and the attitude of the society to look at the movement.

#### **Feminism in Indian English Writing:**

Feminism in Indian literature, as can be most commonly trait which is a much glorified and over-the-top concept, which is most trickily handled under restricted circumstances. With

advancement of time, however, feminism has been accepted in India, setting aside the patriarchal predominance to certain level. Leaving aside the activists and crusaders of the political and social scenario, perhaps massive work of feminism is also secured through Indian literature. Yet, prior to comprehending a more intense look into feminist literature in India, it is necessary to grasp the essential concept of the term 'feminism' in the country's context, beginning from its beginning. The history of feminism in India can be looked at as majorly a "practical effort". Beginning from the first inception of the Universe, there is a fascinating myth associated with the creation of woman by the Supreme Creator, Lord Brahma. And indeed, beginning from Brahma Himself, the idea of feminism in Indian literature, both oral and written, had begun to be established, though perhaps not as blatant as is today. It is said that Brahma had first created man and in his generosity, had desired to give man a companion. But by then he had depleted all the material in the creation of man and hence he had borrowed umpteen components from the handsome creation of nature and had thus made woman out of them. Lord Brahma had introduced woman to his earlier creation man stating, "She will serve you lifelong and if you cannot live with her, neither can you live without her". Literature was not a subject that needed to be left behind, which with time, had gained pace, thus beginning to carve a new way of introducing feminism in Indian literature. It is rather ironical that in India, the premier people who had come forward to claim 'women's rights' were not women but men.

Namita Gokhale is one of the finest writers in the genre of fiction, she writes as a woman with a profound understanding of love and loss but also of the network of relationships that females form to share memory and pass it on as a legacy. Her first book *Paro: Dreams of Passion* (1982) was also the first to foreground the celebration of sexuality of the middle-class Indian

woman. Unembarrassed and uninhibited expression of female desire ran through the book making it a milestone. Female sexual desire and women's awareness of it are issues that Indian society does not discuss.

Anees Jung should be considered an important feminist writer for two reasons. One, that she enters into the world of ordinary Indian women in *Unveiling India: A Woman's Journey* in 1987, to document the reality of their lives and metaphorically, unveils a world of deprivation, oppression, hope and faith and a sense of community and at the same time, recuperates new images of women. Secondly, she transforms what would be an ethnographic study of a social group located in time and space, into a poetic account of the lives of these women. She thus actually discovers a mode of narration that by the operations of the genre of fiction lends an epic quality to her.

Shashi Deshpande is another important writer to contribute to the corpus of feminist writing. Deshpande's stories are about conflicts in middle-class domestic situations that arise as a conflict between societal and traditional expectations of women, especially in their roles of wife and mother and her own aspirations, emotions and sensibilities.

Manju Kapur is another example is an important addition to the scenario because she is one of the few women writers in English who writes on the theme of partition from the woman's point of view. Partition remains one of the most profound and disturbing events in modern India and a theme in much of contemporary literature written in the regional languages, particularly of the north of India and Bengal.

We would include Shobha De in the canon. Many of Shobha De's novels have annoyed and shocked the conservative domain of Indian literary criticism because they highlighted women in a milieu that was privileged by class. However, Shobha De still happens to be among

the first women writing about the urban house wife aspiring career woman, her sexuality and sexual exploitation, her sexual frustration. Indian English Writing and her predatory instincts and how she has learnt to use her body in the struggle for upward mobility. Female sexuality, its awareness and its use as a weapon may disappoint a society.

Feminism is playing a very vital role is a term in the English literature. We can study this term with various angles with the help of the writings of a number of English writers. This paper is a just one short piece for this topic as per the subject. In our day today life we can also witness many incidents which are giving us point to meditate on it. These subjects insist us to think on it as per the view of Humanity. We will get a lot of writers with their prolific writings on feminism. This is a very short attempt to review it.

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