



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Empowerment is the act of providing someone the power, rights, and authority to take on new duties and responsibilities. The word "empowerment" was originally used in academic literature in the context of civil rights. The author thinks that empowerment is giving someone the freedom to accomplish what they want and attain their objectives. This notion of empowerment centers on the person. Other writers take a narrower view, looking at the rules and norms of institutions, society, or politics that influence the choices people make. To empower women, you need to help them understand their rights and responsibilities so they may be equal members of society. It also means letting women think, feel, and be free. A woman is not inferior to a man; she is an equal being. This study examines the rationale for integrating literature into the discourse on women's empowerment. It demonstrates the benefits of include women in literature to facilitate their individual and communal development.



KEYWORDS : Empowerment , power, rights, and authority, academic literature.

LITERATURE'S ROLE IN EMPOWERING WOMEN:

The author thinks that empowerment is giving someone the freedom to accomplish what they want and reach their objectives. This notion is all about the person. The constant conversations about women's rights and equality, which have led to feminist movements all around the globe, have had a big impact on literature. In English literature, Shashi Deshpande and Charlotte Bronte are two well-known women authors. They created female characters that were strong, fearless, and sure of themselves and who lived their lives on their own. These people did not give up when things became tough; instead, they dealt with all the troubles, sufferings, and difficulties they experienced. The emergence of individualism and the changes in politics and society that followed were both linked to the rise of the novel in India in the 19th century and in England in the 18th century.

Women were not seen as autonomous entities. Virginia Woolf once claimed that the major reason for this was because women did not have enough money or room to live alone. People did not think of women as autonomous or self-sufficient. They had a lot of problems in their personal, literary, and cultural lives. Their restricted access to school also hampered their chances to learn. People typically viewed Shashi Deshpande as a second-class person in the past. A lady is generally busy with her family, spouse, and kids. But males do not always treat women properly and do not give them the same amount of credit. Men have influenced how women look. Shashi Deshpande put forth a lot of effort to improve the interaction between men and women. A lady who lives with her parents, spouse,

or children is in a bad situation. When a woman gets married, her husband owns her. She was supposed to do what he said.

She thinks about things like her sexual identity and how little she matters in conventional society. She realizes that being stuck in a marriage has made her life a lot worse. Shashi Deshpande's debut novel, *The Dark Holds No Terrors* (1980), is about Saru and her brother and husband looking for who they are and wanting to be treated the same. She knew from a young age that being a girl would be hard for her. She asks her parents for aid, but they do not provide it to her. She thinks about her connections with her spouse, her late brother Dhruva, her parents, and her children. Her bond with her brother is very important to her. Dhruva does not care about her and treats her harshly. Her family does not love or respect her. To sum up, the ladies in these tales find methods to cope with the lives they have.

Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Bharati Mukherjee, and Shobha De are all Indian women authors from the second generation. Their writing has clearly improved, following the three phases that Elaine Showalter recommended.

Their female characters develop emotionally by going from following conventional roles to fighting against them, then standing up for their rights, and eventually becoming self-aware and autonomous. This change turns them into strong, confident women who are ready to tackle the problems of life, not only as a collective, but as potent forces that help build society. Women in Kamala Markandaya's books go through a lot of terrible times and harsh treatment, yet they never lose their sense of who they are or their mental power.

Her debut work, *Nectar in the Sieve*, is about a poor woman's fight. *Some Inner Fury*, *A Silence of Desire*, *Possession*, and *A Handful of Rice* are more books that portray women striving to reconcile their own wants with their responsibilities as daughters, spouses, and mothers. She explains how Indian culture works and how much harder life is for women than for males, both in households and in society.

The rules, values, and beliefs of a culture determine empowerment; it might seem different in various areas. To give women actual independence at all levels, we need to change how society thinks about things. The experiences of women are profoundly shaped by gender, and their works emanate from and mirror their social, psychological, and economic circumstances. Literature that depicts these unique circumstances aids in comprehending the nuanced, individual experiences sometimes overlooked in broader concepts of women's empowerment. Women may speak up in a subtle but effective manner via writing. It helps students think about problems of gender and sexuality in the context of their interactions with other people. Women may tell the world about their thoughts, aspirations, and identities via writing.

CONCLUSION:

The theme of women's empowerment in English literature highlights the difficulties women face in establishing their identities, dignity, and independence within male-dominated societies. Female authors explore the emotional, social, and cultural obstacles their characters encounter and examine the strategies used to overcome them. In the works of authors like Shashi Deshpande and Kamala Markandaya, female characters often show a growing awareness of their rights, which leads them to challenge societal norms.

Literature serves as a vital instrument for examining women's experiences and advancing gender parity. Beyond merely representing women's lives, it actively fosters societal perceptions of women as equals. This acknowledgment empowers women to shape their own identities and participate in the advancement of society.

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