

Female characters from different lands and eras in Vikram Seth's writings

Isha Sapra¹, Dr. Mohammad Nazzar²

Research Scholar, Mewar University(India), Associate Professor,

Dept. of English, Meerut University(India)

ABSTRACT

Man is a social animal and society is the collective power networks as while living in a group they shared laws and customs as a result they remain in the company of each other.

On different geographical parts of this earth different types of societies have been living and these societies change gradually with change in the time for example earlier there were hunting and gathering societies, agro societies, feudalism, capitalism, industrialism post industrial society and patriarchal society is also a trait of human society from past times. India is a vast Asian country with diversity in linguistic, regional, economic classes and It is constitutional republic consisting many states, each with a sizeable degree of hold over its provinces.

Seth's India based novel highlights gender discrimination as one of the most important theme. Vikram Seth set other novels also in which female characters are more independent and free from any kind of prejudice even free from any sort of orthodoxy. This article investigates female characters from different eras and different nations and throws light on how this writer magically creates beautiful characters with great versatility.

I. INTRODUCTION

In human society each gender is playing its indispensable role. But in the society that is depicted in 'A Suitable Boy' a female life is narrowed down to wifehood and later motherhood. He has created impressive picture of females in different societies of different time period. In Seth's novel 'A Suitable Boy' depiction of patriarchal society and patriarchal values are implanted in post independent Indian community and it is seen that poor patriarchal society utilized violence against women as a powerful tool to control women's sexuality.

But depiction of female characters in Two Lives, The Golden Gate and in An Equal Music' are not strict to a particular modal characters but it varies with background of the novels in which it is set.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Hindu moral code denies woman's existence apart from her husband or his family. In Raja Ram Mohan Roy's long suffering wives are revealed and silenced mothers resulting from patriarchy are highlighted where female get domesticated after marriage.. It is generally seen that women in various countries are bound to get

married because of economic independence that can enhance the financial status of a female but Seth's creations rationally throws light on female independency also. This paper endeavors to examine place of females in Seth's novel from social, political, religious, cultural, and racial aspects in different eras. Seth's female characters invite comparison with other female characters generated by some renowned writers like Khushwant Singh, Jhumpa Lahiri, Charles Dickens and Jane Austen.

III. 'THE GOLDEN GATE' AND REALISTIC CONDITION OF FEMALE IN IT WORLD IN SILICON VALLEY

In America with vast change in timings due to scientific innovations status of female also changes as a result of wide spread education there is economical independence of female. In 'The Golden Gate' female is purported enjoying equal status and here is no economic need for marriage rather there is emotional need for marriage. So, both male and female enjoy their bachelorhood and they enjoy even pre-marital sex for physical and mental satisfaction. 'The Golden Gate' is the replica of same American IT culture.

IV. 'A SUITABLE BOY' AND INDIAN FEMALES POST INDEPENDENT ERA

Vikram Seth tries to depict and unveils female with modifications that comes with place and time. After Independence Indian Constitution was created which was a replica of Magna Carta the British Constitution, it gives a fundamental right of equality. Even before Independence women took part in various reforms and rallies and had played an appreciated role. Everybody wanted perfect wife in an ideal home. Lata is the female lead character of Vikram Seth's novel 'A Suitable Boy' and a depiction of ever expanding generation gap in post Independent India. While doing graduation in college. She fell in love with a Muslim boy Kabir Durrani this love episode points towards ever expanding cultural lag that Lata did not get ready for an arranged marriage easily.

Indian people prefer boys because of their value in agricultural activities tend to be higher and after marriage a boy continue residing with his parents, supporting them as they age. In contrast, a girl drains family resources, especially when a large dowry goes with her to her husband this sort of mentality prevails in Indian society and with the change in time and change in place this cultural pattern varies and by following real cultural pattern.

But later she changed her mind. Love, passion and sexual power appear to be sacrifices necessitated by the compulsions of everyday existence. This is how Seth justifies the decision of Lata to marry a man other than her lover.

**Lata had alternated between serene optimism
And terrifying attacks of uncertainty for the last
Week. After the civil ceremony was over, she
Felt calm and almost happy, and a fond of**

**Haresh than before. From time to time he had
smiled at her as if he knew most needed reassurance.**

(Boy.1335-1336)

V. AN EQUAL MUSIC AND FEMALE RIGHTS TO LIVE A HAPPY LIFE

In 'An Equal Music' writer has sculpted Julia a modern female musician and her love story with a guy and their split. When her lover left her, writer justified this character by providing her with a husband after her split with her lover, neither writer nor her lover criticized her that quick decision even Seth justified her action. So one can say that Seth always depict female characters in great originality without adding false colors.

**I had slept with other woman before, and she
Had had a boyfriend before once, but I was her
First love and she was mine. Nor have I ever been
In love since. But then I have never fallen out
of love with her- with her, (Music.83)**

While writing a novel Seth creates a character not just from Indian point of view but from a rational view point her lover never criticized Julia for decision regarding marriage and her separation from her husband she indulge in an affair with her ex boyfriend and writers switches an erotic scene between them

**The sun falls on our bodies. She does not want
The blind draws. I run my hands through her
hair, So much longer than it used to be. We make
love not with tenderness but with ecstasy born of
starvation... yet in her I sense a tension drop away.
She does not want me to speak, nor does she speak
Herself... the scent of her body, mixed with her
faint perfume, drives me into frenzy.(Music.137)**

VI. ORIGINAL CONDITION OF FEMALE IN NAZI GERMANY AND ITS COMPARISON TO ‘TWO LIVES’

Jewish and female physicians were not allowed to practice medicine in Germany during Hitler’s rule from 1933 to 1945. During third Reich, when Adolf Hitler was a chancellor of Germany, that was a time of great violence and discrimination.

Henny, who is portrayed as heroine of ‘Two Lives’ was a big victim of Nazi riots. And her family members especially her mother and sister suffered a lot. And she married an Indian and develops love, friendship and mutual understanding beyond racial barrier

The very next day I proposed to Henny

And brought an engagement ring - ...

The next day I took Henny to the ring.

She never took it off her finger (Lives.370)

VII. CONCLUSION

It is concluded that, although Vikram Seth is famous as an Indian poet but his consciousness and way of expression is appreciated by whole world who can read and understand English. His whole range of novels depict females from different phases and stages of life and he endowed his female characters with different weapons as per suitability of time and place but all characters are beautiful and well knit.

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