

**THE THEME OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SHASHI DESHPANDE'S
NOVEL 'THE DARK HOLDS NO TERROR'****PRIN.DR. CHANDRAKANT R. MANDLIK**Head, Department of English
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Junnar (Pune)**ABSTRACT**

Violence is of two types. One is domestic and other is social. It is the force which is used against the common rights and interest. The reasons for the domestic violence are different opinions, thoughts, attitude of dictatorship, misunderstanding, prejudice mind, and indifference on the basis of money and gender. The novel, 'The Dark Holds No Terror' by Shashi Deshpande. The woman character Sarita is a sufferer of the domestic violence both at mother's house and father in laws house.

Keywords- Domestic Violence, Reasons-Different Opinions, Dictatorship, Misunderstanding, Prejudice Mind, Gender.

Introduction

Literature is not only a source of information, knowledge and entertainment but also a social document because we read line between of the society in literature. It stores socio-political upheavals, spiritual and intellectual speeches, and the events occurring in day today life of human being. The work of Indian writing in English is significant in presenting cultural and religious traditions art of Hindus and Muslims. The various branches of literature are the puranas, the panchatantras, Katha-Saritha sagara, poems, plays and folk tales. B.C. Chatterji the father of the Indian novel in English established his identity by publishing a novel 'Raj Mohan's Wife' in 1964. Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu gave recognition to Indian English Literature with their writings.

What is violence?

What we find basically in the writing of Indian writers? The Indian writers have been trying to project social problems, family conditions and relations of people in the domestic and social life. The themes they evaporated in their work are concerned with politics, social and psychological problems like class distinctions', corruption, and exploitation of women.



Violence is of two types: one which takes place in the house caused by inner conflict and the other is social violence which is a result of external conflict. I want to elucidate domestic violence. It is important to know what is violence? The Dictionary of Legal Terms tries to define the term violence as:

Violence is that force, which is employed against common right----but this violence is not confined to an actual assault of the person----on the contrary, whatever goes to intimidate or overawe-----equally falls within its limits.

Reasons for violence

The two places where violence takes place are home and public place. When more than two persons come together quarrel may take place which turns into violence. There are many reasons which are responsible for violence. The different opinions or thoughts do not permit peace. Attitude of dictatorship does not allow harmony in the house and in the public place. Miss understanding, communication-gap, prejudice mind, different opinions, indifference on the basis of money and gender are also causes of violence,

Physical violence is one of the domestic violence. Doubt or suspicious mind is the main cause of physical violence. Husband does not like his wife talking with male relative or neighboring male. If he finds her talking with them the storm of doubt begins to rise which results into beating the wife. Such male beings are always named as cruel, suspicious, wicked and heartless. If wife is more educated than her husband she is insulted by him in front of the people. He hates her progress. This type of woman suffers from feeling of frustration. This is a question of Identity. What is wrong if woman wants to establish her own recognition on the basis of merit? In fact it is credit not only to the family but also society. How long and why they may remain caged? Why should not male being allow them to breathe fresh air?

The women should not be twisted thinking that they are the only source of productivity and sexual enjoyment for men. Woman is a sufferer from the time of birth. Parents and relatives show expressions of unhappiness on their faces hearing that newly born baby is a girl and not a son.

Violence in ‘*The Dark Holds No Terror*’

An award winning author Shashi Deshpande has established her identity among the contemporary Indian novelist in English by writing a novel ‘*The Dark Holds No terrors*’ and ‘*That Long Silence*’. She is mainly concerned with the conflict of Indian women fighting against tradition and for freedom to the women. The title of the novel ‘*The Dark Holds No Terrors*’ is symbolic of horror. Sarita attempts to make her life significant by linking the past and the future with the present. Shashi Deshpande uses two techniques namely interior monologue for the explanation of the past and for the description of present to the future she



amalgamates third person narrative with the dramatic dialogues. Women's experiences in their daily routine are mainly focused by the novelist.

I would like to analyze a novel '*The Dark Holds No Terror*' by Shashi Deshpande in the light of violence. It describes life of a woman character Sarita who is a puppet in the hands of her husband Manohar. Sarita is a lady doctor. She is exploited by her husband because of his sexual extreme. During her childhood, Sarita was treated in a cruel manner by her own mother. Her mother's cruel attitude did not allow her to enjoy innocent life. She is not supported by her father. He leads the family in conventional way and does not show any interest in overtaking troubles of the members in the family. 'He had always been so much a man, the master of the house, not to be bothered by any of the trivial of daily routine (Deshpande, 1980:20) Manohar is under the impression that being a male he rules the family. Nobody in the house even his wife raise a question against his power. He does not bother happening of daily life. Therefore, he behaves like a free bird who has no worry. He is neutral but her mother is over active whose thoughts are extreme.

Man is not only responsible for the domestic violence in the family. On the other hand women are also at the root of violence. There are many examples of violence which is created by Sarita's mother in the house. Sarita is unable to forget her brother's death by drowning in the childhood. Her attempt of rescuing him was futile. Therefore her mother's attitude is hurtful. She abuses her daughter Sarita for being responsible for the son's death. Her feelings of hatred towards daughter are of no use. Sarita's mother worries about the son which is also useless.

She desires her daughter, Sarita to be dead and son to be alive which is not in the hands of human being. The thought of life and death is not the wish of human being. She makes difference between son and daughter on the basis of gender. She says "He is different. He is a boy" (Deshpande, 1980:45) She thinks that daughter in the house is not permanent company. After marriage she has to go to husband's house and she becomes outsider. The son on the other hand is a lamp of the heir and is in the house for ever. In this situation she says, 'girls are only for 'now', but 'boys are forever' (p. 45) Sarita is compelled to tolerate exploitation at the hands of her mother. She has not been permitted to take her decisions regarding her marriage and work.

Sarita's life in the father-in-law's house is totally unhappy. It is complete disillusion. Manohar, Sarita's husband is egoist man. He feels disturbed when she is respected more than him in the society. People show gratefulness to her. They have lost the peace of mind which is taken for granted in family.

Sarita is mentally tortured by her husband. He does not allow Sarita to serve him food which is prepared by her. Despite all this Sarita has to find her own way. She thinks carefully about her present situation, traditional minds of Indian women, usefulness of modernity and truth of marriage. Accepting reality of life Sarita decides to face challenges that they have been



taking place. But she is helpless who cannot violate the law of marriage. The women in Indian society are not able to go against the traditions of family system. We find that the women suffer a lot who behave against the norms of marriage institution. She understand that neither her father nor her husband desire to keep her happy. They do not want her to enjoy peace of mind.

Conclusion:-

Self-realization is one of the solutions to avoid domestic violence. In order to avoid domestic violence it is needed to do many things Women are the prominent source of human-race. Therefore they must be treated in a good manner by the male community. If they are given opportunities they can establish their own identity. Women should not be treated as the slaves because their contribution in the development of the family is also unforgettable.

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