

THE CONCEPT OF NEW-WOMEN IN SHASHI DESHPANDE'S THAT LONG SILENCE

S. Aishwarya

M.Phil Scholar

Shri Sakthikailassh Women's College Salem

Periyar University

Abstract:

The concept of this paper deals with the responsibilities of women in the society as well as in her house, the character a woman holds in a house is not a simple thing she should work hard for the welfare of the family members and stay them happy. She should fulfill all the dreams of her family by holding her dreams like a dream and should be submissive all the time she doesn't have any space to tell her side and she should act like a muted one in the house and take care of the household responsibilities. This novel, *That Long Silence*, suggest that a belated reaction and postponement action and behavior for long till cannot be made anymore. The patience of silence and endurance is broken and its outcome is a new-women with an egotistical and emotional outburst. As Shashi Deshpande states herself: "Innermost feeling come out in my writings. This kind of emotions we know women have but never come out". The novelist through the relationship of Mohan-Jaya makes affinity and had shed some light on modern love, sex, marital affinities and has hinted at the domestic warfare of a married couple. Jaya is symptomatic of the emerging new-women. She has already developed a maxim that a daughter must fight the mother if she wants to graduate in the world. But she is in desperations and disappointments in her seventeen years old marital existence, her failures, all these being to haunt and torment her. Jaya can no longer to be a passive, submissive and silent partner to Mohan.

Keywords: woman, household responsibilities, emotional, .etc

The concept of this paper deals with the responsibilities of women in the society as well as in her house, the character a woman holds in a house is not a simple thing she should work hard for the welfare of the family members and stay them happy. She should fulfill all the dreams of her family by holding her dreams like a dream and should be submissive all the time she doesn't have any space to tell her side and she should act like a muted one in the house and take care of the household responsibilities. This makes a woman come out of the house and want to live like a bird that makes every woman happy and they always stay with liberty.

In this novel *That Long Silence* proposes the life of Jaya the protagonist and also she faces some difficulties in her life. From this difficult situation how women come out of her problems and face the outer world with a smiling face. The author, Shashi Deshpande was a prominent woman in Indo-Anglican writer, she has come out with the tremendous and sketches out her ideas and emotions of women with full of an emotion that makes a reader to live as a character and they felt the sufferings of the protagonist.

The old conventional notions of male-dominated society were so rude, unbearable, suppressive, oppressive and depressive that women's discourse takes a shape of the movement. Their consciousness seeks to analyze and understand the material conditions through which gender has been constructed within specific languages and bodies of literature.

The title itself gives us a clear idea about the paper that the concept of a New-Women itself justifies the title, that a women should bring the radical changes in the society that they face in day to day life. It makes her prosperous and should be herself without losing her dignity makes her feel proud and be smart women in the public. But it speaks about the man-women relationship towards the entire novel.

The gender perspectives of a woman lead her like a shadow figure and she plays a various role as a daughter, wife, mother, and in-laws her home. While she comes out she should also take care of all her responsibilities. But man's affinity with a woman is often the bond exists between a master and a slave. This state calls for a concerted effort to demolish such notions and to assert the dignity and equality of a woman in the family as well as in the wider social life.

This novel, *That Long Silence*, suggest that a belated reaction and postponement action and behavior for long till cannot be made anymore. The patience of silence and endurance is broken and its outcome is a new-women with an egotistical and emotional outburst. As Shashi Deshpande states herself: "Innermost feeling come out in my writings. This kind of emotions we know women have but never come out".

This novel discusses the difficulties and anxiety of a middle-class family. And it fully deals with the protagonist Jaya. She has self-doubts, fears, guilt, silent indignation towards

articulation and assertion. The way she representative of girl who is brought up in middle-class families in post-Independent India. She re-discovers herself, which is but an act of being an unfulfilled wife, a disappointed mother and a failed writer.

Jaya marries Mohan a jobless person but he wants to lead a happy and sophisticated life so he decides to go to Jaya's maternal uncles flat in Dadar. He always thought to be a good and rich man, this attitude makes Jaya disappoint and her thoughts kill her and she was haunted by past events. She tries to tolerate herself but it no longer exists and burst out and she reborn as new women here the title itself justifies a concept of a new-women to the society.

This novel presents a scathing aspect of our social institutions like marriage or family. For instance, during her pregnancy she seeks help from her husband to cook but he refuse the work by saying "cooking is not a work of men" this makes her very disappointing, by seeing her neighbor Kamat, a widower does all his household works with asking any help from others. They both have a nice relationship as friends. Jaya feels happy with Kamat then with her husband. But such type of friendship between a married woman and another man is always looked down upon. That why when Kamat's dead body was lying on the floor of his flat Jaya did not stay and pay homage to her best friend for the fear of destroying her wedding.

So she does her role as a wife but fails to be a human being. She belies for a while the loyal Hindu ideal of devotion to the husband. Her romantic appearance is the feminist mark of the new-women. But after all, she concludes that a husband is a "sheltering tree" and she plays again the role of an orthodox Hindu wife. This makes Jaya raise her voice against her husband. The ego and the concept of Jaya become evident when we consider the husband-wife relationship of the traditional Hindu women and the new-women. Jaya's mother never raises her voice against her father. Mohan thinks that Jaya is not sufficient to play the role of a good wife. And also he says that her mother did not prepare her for the role of a wife to do her duties. So a woman in anger is ugly and unwomanly.

The novelist through the relationship of Mohan-Jaya makes affinity and had shed some light on modern love, sex, marital affinities and has hinted at the domestic warfare of a married couple. Jaya is symptomatic of the emerging new-women. She has already developed a maxim that a daughter must fight the mother if she wants to graduate in the world. But she is in desperations and disappointments in her seventeen years old marital existence, her failures, all these being to haunt and torment her. Jaya can no longer to be a passive, submissive and silent partner to Mohan.

This way she is representative of girls who is brought up in middle-class families in post-Independent India. However, she becomes the modern egotistical self-assertive rebellious

women all these being marks of new-women. The desertion and the conventional passive and submissive role and adoption of the new role present a woman's perspective on the world and it focuses on women issues.

References:

- Deshpande, Y.P. *Indian Novelist in English*. Vital Publications. 2011.
- Kumar Singh, Pramod. editor. *Indian Fiction in English*. Atlantic Publishers. 2001.
- Savarkar Pande, Yogini. *Indian Writers in English: A Treatise*. Current Publications.