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**THE IMAGE OF NEW WOMAN IN *THE DARK HOLDS NO TERRORS* BY SHASHI  
DESHPANDE**

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Abstract

In *The Dark Holds No Terrors* novel shashi Deshpande shows a variety of characters. The Protagonist was Saritha a Successful Lady Doctor. The Conflict between male and female who was an educated woman suffered by taboo and Indian Society is the theme of the novel. The novel projects that Martha wants to free from society, culture, and nature. It is disappointed story as a daughter from their own family members. She is longing for her own identity. Her mother said that Saru is responsible for her brother Dhurva death, mother neglected her always. And he belongs to the Orthodox family. Shashi mainly uses this novel feminism averted to identify and erase gender discrimination. This story considered that evolution of man as to complete only if the women attain her independence and individuality.

Keywords: *Alienation, Taboo theme, gender discrimination, Feminism, sufferings, Patriarchal society, self-identity.*

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Shashi Deshpande is one of the prominent Indian novelists of the latest elite group. This novel deals with the conflict of modern educated Indian women, who face suppression between patriarchy society and taboo. Term feminism is used only to identify and erase gender discrimination in Indian society. In fact, Shashi ideas of feminism are different from another feminist writer. She explores the status of women with a realistic touch.

*The Dark Holds No Terrors* novel interacts the balance between past and present time. This novel describes the woman protagonist was Sarita who pities for herself. She is not given importance because of her female gender. No parental love and affection were shown towards Saru even on her birthdays. Her parents celebrated her brother birthday with full enthusiasm and

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included and religious rituals were performed too. Accidentally her brother was drowned in the pool; she is blamed for it by her mother. Her mother always scolds her for being responsible for son's death "you killed him. Why didn't you die? Why are you alive, when he is dead?"

Saru grew up and acquire her education against her mother's will. And she became an educated young lady. She resembles how her brother was treated and how they selected a name for him. "They named him Dhruva. I can remember, even now vaguely, faintly, a state of joyous excitement that had been his naming day. The smell of flowers, the black grinding stone... (152).

This shows that the mother was attached to her son. And her attitude was a typical one. Her mother gave more importance to her male child more than a girl child, because the male child has the birthright to give "ignite " and do the last rituals demised body of parents. Their beliefs, superstitious said that soul of the dead person would wander here and there if their son ignites their dead body that soul will disappear and they rebirth occurs in future.

While was studying in medical college, she fells in love with a college mate and she married him against her parents' wishes. Her mother was being an old traditional orthodox woman did not want her daughter to get married to a person who was not from their caste and he belongs to lower caste than us is the main reason.

They loved each other and she married Manu. She expected to love, affection from him. But it had turned in opposite Manu was a normal person in a day and in the night, he gave sexual torture to Saru who suffered a lot. In the 19th century women lead a slavery life. Before marriage, they spend their life according to parents wish, after marriage, they had to obey their husbands as master and after reading their old age they must spend with their sons. So our Indian women don't have soul identity. Even they lose their name and our society introduced as someone's daughter or someone's wife or someone's mother. They are a relation to female but this is not their own identity. The protagonist Saru finds many questions in her way of life- struggle the answer are unknown to her. She reminds her past childhood life as well as married life but she didn't find anything but a woman, who gets birth only to please the male. In society, women are named after a man. Even a child has his father name as initial, not the mother's name.

Marital status is not an easy thing, it's a combination of forces acting upon two human genders in different capacities to fulfill the marital status and play a vital role in society and our culture. These two genders undergo changes at the functional and psychological issues. This is the main thing to change many against Saru when she earned more than the menu. Our society traditional is have some bondage male-dominated society. So he cannot accept it and torture her in the night time. She was tired of both duties indoor and outdoor, she decided to leave the one duties but Manu was not accepted. Saru said that "manu, I want to stop working. I want to give it

all up..my practice, the hospital, everything"(72). But manu does not want her to leave her job as they cannot maintain the same standard with only his income. " on my salary? Come on Saru, don't be silly. You know how much I earn. You think we can live this way on that?"(73).

The burden of double duties was not balanced by Saru, not only Saru all the women had this problem. Due to this close juncture of life, Saru hears the news of her mother's death and goes back to home without emotionless. She didn't feel for her parents, she doesn't have any affection or emotion. She doesn't show any changes in her feelings.

She feels for her life throughout the traumatic scene mother died, brother died and her marital life was a failure. She thinks off that she changed his husband and destroyed the manhood.

She discussed her life towards her father. But he didn't show any sympathy, at that time, she thinks of whether if our marriage is arranged marriage, our parent will support us but now it is fate. She hated her mother who always shows affection towards her brother not with her. The writer shows the mother and daughter generation gap. It is a conflict between the old and the young: the traditional and modern. In her trauma that is logically produce some bitterness but she brought up in a traditional atmosphere, her education changed her attitude. Her mother forces to stay within the four walls of the house. And her mother does not give permission to take admission to the college but Saru does not even listen to her. She was sandwiched between tradition and modernity.

Now education gives her consciousness which was not present in the older generation. This is exactly the character of Saru represented middle class working women in modern India. She against of traditions but tires to comprise with the existing reality. She fights against frustration, Suppression, generation gap, traditional, identity and male-dominated society.

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