

Impact on the Contemporary Society of Shobhaa De's Works

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Feminism is a socio- political movement which advocates involved active participation by women to demand for their rights. It can be considered a movement which is fought against female oppression under patriarchy. There are various ways by which a woman can be victimized or we can say that victimization of woman can take place through various ways like caste, colour, race, attitude towards motherhood, etc. The Feminist movement was actually started by white women who basically hailed from middle class in Western Europe and North America. This trend accelerated in 1960's with Cool right Movement and the collapse of European Colonialism in Africa, Caribbean parts of Latin America and South Asia. Third Wave feminists advocate for equal rights for the girls and taking charge of their own sexual fulfillment. In her essay, Lust for Freedom, Rebecca Walker discusses the need for sex education for young women. It recognizes that sexual pleasure is a central part of women's lives and does not discourage women who know how to achieve it without any sense of guilt or regret. The new generation of feminism embraces beauty and power of women's sexuality to achieve their needs. They consider sexual pleasure a human right. Many writers in India have talked of pleasure and its manifestations. The heroines in Ms. De's novels rebuild their lost fortunes; make all efforts to look glamorous by losing weight and spending money in massage parlours. They try to look and act differently from the conventional and traditional women. They love to fall in love with their looks by which they try to attract people. It gives them immense pleasure when people fall head to heels in love with them and they are least concerned about it. Shobhaa De's doesn't believe in describing her women characters as love slaves or mere help mates at home. Shobhaa De as a writer tries to mirror or portray her feminist mind-set while portraying women in her nov-



els. A broader evaluation of her work reveals her protest against the good old image of women who can't live the way she wants to and do things the way she wants to. Women in her novels are represented as sexually liberated and free thinkers who have been termed as "New Woman?". These so called new women are much more physically active and athletically strong than their mothers. Feminist- New Style, a journal (1927) declared that "The new woman is a blend of physical freedom, sexuality and stamina with feminist self assertiveness and traditional domestic feminist, a woman who can combine pleasure, career and marriage. They are eager to participate in pleasure as they would do in play, work etc."

All her heroines, be it Karuna, Aparna, Mikki, Alisha or Asha Rani are rebellious modern Indian women who challenge the orthodoxy of social taboos. They are different from the sexually ignorant Indian woman which is quite contradictory to most Indian male writers who feel that sex is as unpleasant subjection to man's desire- necessary in order to have offspring. Shobhaa De's women challenge this traditional set up in the society. Her women are far more assertive, domineering and bold in comparison to men. They are not submissive, and guilty of their affairs. Sujata, in Sultry Days (1994) is a prostitute, who does what her mind says. This gives her pleasure. Life is defined on her own terms. When Asha Rani, in Starry Nights (1991) the famous heroine of Bollywood decides to quit films all of a sudden when she is at the peak of her career just to live with a fellow co star, Akshay Arora, her mother tries to dissuade her from doing it. Then she argues in this way in "Money, money, money. That's all you think of. Well, I'm fed up being your money machine. I have done enough for everybody- you, Sudha and others- now I want to live for myself. Asha Rani designs herself a code of conduct for herself which is free from the prescribed gender rules and sexual constraints. This shows

Corporate World: A Feminist Study with Reference to Shobhaa De's Novels

Women's contribution to work was started way back during the First World War when they represented and worked alongside men and actively participated in rendering their services to the country. Not only they performed their work wholeheartedly, but they were also applauded by everyone for their dedicated service. The entry of women into the professional world was seen as a threat to the patriarchal system who opined that a woman should render her service to the society as a wife, mother or a daughter. If they indulged in coming out of their house and working outside, they would never be able to do justice to their role. In an attempt to stop them from going to work, they were alleged with immoralities and thereby posing threat to the stable family lives. This was one of the major reasons for the rise of Feminist Movement.

Feminism is a movement which advocated for establishing and defending equal rights for women. It aims at providing political, economic and social rights to them. The activists who fight for these rights are called as feminists. They have campaigned tirelessly for women's rights in the field of contracts, property, voting rights and also reproductive rights. The Feminist Movement opposed domestic violence, sexual harassment etc. Feminists have fought for providing workplace rights which included providing equal pay package and opportunities for enhancing their careers to be successful entrepreneurs.

Shobhaa De is a writer who has actively participated in Feminist Movement without being called herself as a feminist. She says wisely: "I write with a great deal of empathy towards women without waving the feminist flag"

The role of women is undergoing

ing a massive dramatic change worldwide. Women today have succeeded in sharing podium alongside men in almost all fields. Women have joined hands to hands in becoming team leaders, CEO's, managers in the corporate world. However, the number of women in managerial positions is still alarmingly low which may be due to various factors. For example, women find it more comfortable to stick to their roles as homemakers and for this reason they are ready to quit their jobs if it's the demand of their family. Secondly, maternity leave also poses another reason for their discontinuity in their jobs. As a result of which very few women succeed in getting the top positions in the corporate world.

Shobhaa De writes mostly about urban elite women and has effectively highlighted their problems. She has got the mind with the sharpness of an eagle which has captured the plight of women in corporate world. Shobhaa De has vehemently opposed the gender discrimination in workplace and has advocated for equivalence of power shared between both men and women.

New Indian women who have already attained economic independence are a breed apart from others. They enjoy economic independence and their attitude is characterized by a rare seriousness. In Blogspot.com's article, Independent Woman, What a Laugh, dated Aug 24th 2010 she wrote, "Our conversation was restricted to children, cooking and maids. (all these were declared hazardous to health, more so than cigars and booze) She further writes that this conversation was not between bored or pampered housewives, but it was between first class corporate professionals who earned approximately same, if not more than their husbands. Still they

were cribbing about traditional household domestic issues that belonged to their grandmother's era."

According to Shobhaa De, women in business are not given much importance even though they wore business suits to their workplace and carried burgundy coloured brief cases and they took their jobs on earnestness that was almost terrifying in its intensity by men. In fact work interests for women have become fashionable.

A working woman, who hails from middle class background but now has got a job in corporate sector can surrender her pay packet to her mother-in-law and feel guilty about the smallest personal expenses that she does without telling her family. Yet her observation is Shakti is destructive as well as a creative force and the maintenance of equilibrium between the low opposing forces can lead to creative and dynamic harmony. Shobhaa De has stated in Shooting from the Hip "The very concept of the sexes locked in external battle is negative and destructive." She makes this interesting and truthful remark that there will be complacent, placed woman and a freak, docile man, the quarrel is not to reach the top of the human heap, and stay there but about the race being run in fair terms and without weighted handicaps".

Socialite Evenings gives us the picture of marginalization of Indian working woman at the hands of their husbands. The heroines of Shobhaa De's novels are not only protagonists, but they are also the monetary contributors to their family as well as in the society, who initiates and regulates their own lives as well as the lives of others. Such is Karuna's (Socialite Evenings) confidence over Work and this is Shobhaa De's attitude for Work.

clearly that women in Shobhaa De's novels can't be always taken for

granted that they will be dutiful and self sacrificing daughter to their par-

ents. They will certainly revolt when their self interest is at stake. They may

22 teachers of 13 districts in the investigation ambit

RBSE clerk arrested for leaking name of copy evaluators

Udaipur police arrested Darshan Kumar Sharma, a clerk at the confidential section of RBSE (Raj Board of Secondary Education), Ajmer in connection with a case of bribing teachers who are evaluating examination copies of class tenth students of Bandhu Public School, Sikar. A team which went to nab the clerk from Ajmer returned on Sunday with Sharma who will be produced before the local court on Monday. The clerk confessed to have leaked the details to the owners of the school, evidences and call records confirm the charges, Shival Meena, the SHO of Sarada police station said.

Police had arrested Suresh Kumar Jat, the owner and Panna Singh Chohan, the geography teacher of the school at Sarada on Friday when they had come to meet Amarchand Kumhar, a social science teacher here to strike a deal with him for boosting grades of their students. According to the two

accused, many schools from Jaipur and Shekhawati region indulge in similar practices to craft good performance report of their schools. Since Panna Singh hailed from Ajmer, he knew Mohan Singh, the president of the Board Staff Club through whom he met Darshan Kumar. "The accused said they had bribed Darshan Kumar Sharma, the clerk at the confidential section of the Board to sneak information of the subject teachers who have been allocated examination copies of the students of their school. They struck the deal with the clerk for 1 lakh rupees and paid him an advance of 30 thousand rupees to get names of the evaluators," said Shival.

The men had met 22 teachers of 13 districts in past few weeks and shockingly, they had been successful in striking a deal with many of them while few had declined the offer. Some of the teachers are told to have received token amount while

some agreed to take the 'price' after the announcement of results. Some of them didn't take money but accepted sweet packets in return of the favor, accused told the cops while interrogation. A teacher from Barmer is told to have taken as much as 7 thousand rupees for increasing scores. The accused are in the police custody presently and have made revelations that has raised questions on the integrity of the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education itself. The subject teachers are told to be from Bhiwar, Banswara, Barmer, Rajasmand, Dungepur, Jhalawad, Dhaulpur, Karauli, Chittorgarh, Sikar, Pali, Dausa, Pratapgarh. "Teams will be sent to all these places to interrogate the teachers named by the culprits to know the truth" the officer said. Police has seized documents having bank account details of the teachers and increased marks indicated against their names.

environment to the outer world. Leo Nardo da vinci, The great painter said - "the things desired by the mother are often impressed on the child which the mother carries. One fear that the mother has, or mental pain has more power over the child than over the mother.

"Above motivational facts and sayings had influenced me to take an initiative for the problem which had troubled me for all these years. My motive was to live through the unfolding experience of birth. Moreover I also wanted a degree of relaxation in hospital environment and patient's relatives. So I introduced this healing power of music as an effort in Operation theatres, Labor rooms, and Labor rooms wards," opines the veteran doctor.

"The most difficult part of the study was to implement the type of music because hospital is a place where people of different walks of life come. I had to choose the music which had to be soothing, relaxing, and accept-

51 thousand farmers suffer climate wrath in Udaipur

The hailstorms and unseasonal rains in two spells had cast vast damage to Rabi crops in Udaipur division. According to a loss assessment report made after extensive survey by the department of agriculture, 50 % loss in traditional crops like wheat and barley and 70 to 80 percent loss in cash crops like Isabgol, jeera, opium and coriander etc was assessed in Udaipur and Pratapgarh districts respectively. Against the administration's demand of 13 crore rupees in the relief package, 9.2 crore rupees have been received in the first dispersal that have been distributed among the affected ones. "In five of the affected tehsils in Udaipur 51 thousand 828 farmers have suffered the loss and we have received 9.20 crore rupees in the first dispersal. three more instalments are expected" informed Ashutosh AT Pednekar, Udaipur collector. According to the Girdawari report from the administration, farmers faced wrath in 5 tehsils of Vallabhnagar, Mavli, Gogunda, Badgaon and Kotra in Udaipur.

The administration estimat-

ed loss running to some 13 crores in the district. According to the Girdawari report, Mavli was found to be the largely affected block in Udaipur district where wheat and Chana crops sustained severe damages. Standing crops in fields at Ghasa, Manikyawas, Mangthala, Palana Kala, Palana Kurd, Pipaliya and surrounding villages of Mavli block suffered the maximum damages up to 50 percent for which 9.8 crore as compensation had been recommended by the authorities. At other places compensation amounting to 159.75 lakh in Vallabhnagar, 181.13 lakh for Gogunda block was demanded. Negligible loss were reported from Banswara and Dungepur districts where rains were less powerful. In Kushagarh at Banswara 5 to 7 percent damage was reported from wheat crop in 8,150 hectares. Vast damage inflicted on Isabgol crop spread in some 900 hectares at Pratapgarh district as 70 percent losses were estimated while 30 to 40 percent damage noted in opium crop.

Woman jailed for drugging, blackmailing wealthy men

The Goverdhan Vilas police here has arrested Rubina Harun Khan, a 28-year-old woman of Verma colony at Savina on charges of blackmailing and extorting money from wealthy men after being 'drugged' by her. The woman who worked with an automobile agency, enticed rich clients to her apartment with the help of two of her accomplice and later extorted money in return of objectionable video clips, which she made after intoxicating them. Rubina was produced before the magistrate on Wednesday who ordered her to be sent to judicial custody.

"Rubina worked with an automobile agency where she used to come in contact with rich and wealthy clients frequently. She befriended many of the men who were lured in to visit her apartment at Goverdhan Vilas area" informed Abdul Rehman, the SHO. One

such person Rafeeq Mohammed, a resident of Malla Talai area lodged a report against the lady at the police station who claimed that Rubina had blackmailed and extorted money against some objectionable CD she claimed to have been made when he had been at her residence three months ago. "My driver Mehmoond took me to her flat on pretext of a casual meeting but Rubina offered me a glass of beer laced with some drug which made me unconscious. When I woke up I was at my house and my wife told me that Mehmoond had dropped me home late night" Rafeeq said in the report. Few days later Rafeeq received a call from Rubina alleging that he had molested her in a state of intoxication and that if he didn't pay her a sum of 30 lakh rupees, she would lodge a rape case against him. Afterwards on bar-

gaining the issue was settled for 2.5 lakh rupees but Rubina didn't return the videoclips and CD even after getting the agreed amount.

The victim told the police that later he came to know that his driver Mehmoond and another person called Ahmed were Rubina's aides who helped her trap wealthy clients. Rubina was arrested and taken on police remand on Tuesday however she was ordered to be jailed on Wednesday. Police has seized the flat and trying to get possession of the CDs and video clips she made of many rich men. With one case reported, many others are told to have contacted the police who have shared similar tragedy of getting entrapped and paid extortion money to the women. Mehmoond is absconding while Ahmed is told to be in jail in connection with some other case.

Scores of the study speaks the essence that music is a natural medicine to stress. It can reduce stress of any magnitude. Above all music therapy has no side effects. It is very helpful in reducing maternal morbidity and to some extent mortality where stress factors are involved. We can execute this therapy as a vital initiative for reducing morbidity among mothers. I imagine that if we could be able to execute this innovative step as other creative ideas implemented by our government (JSSK JSY MNJY MNDY), there could be significant reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality which is still frightening us with its high figures.

I hope that this step will help many initiators to make them and their patient comfortable and smile, which is an ultimate aim of any Doctor or Healer. Lastly I emphasize with a feeling that as birth is a sacred event we must try to make it effortless for mother, merriment for attendants and contentment for obstetrician.

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Music Therapy ...

I had always felt of stress among my coworkers & teachers, which was reflected by their behavior to patients, staff and colleagues. Working in labor room and wards in labor room is a very different scenario than any other place in hospital, as always there is subconscious uncertainty among patients," says Dr. Sharma. Dr. Rajrani Sharma documents her experiments, issues and success as below:

Dr. Rajrani Sharma introduced music therapy in the Panna Dhay Mahila Chikitsaalaya of Udaipur and has been immensely successful. Attendants, Patient's apprehension, load of work, hectic schedule, and shift duties leave a resident doctor in a state of perplexity and irritability. Since then although the time has changed but circumstances are still the same - rather they have worsened manifold. "During these thirty five years of profession; my mind has been con-

tinuously intrigued by the thoughts of a solution which I could apply on this problem so that it could work at all the levels whether doctor, staff or patients. I found the remedy to my problem in the saying of the great French composer Hector Berlioz "Music alone at once speaks to the imagination, the mind, the heart and the senses",," adds the doctor.

Also as it is known fact that the personality of the baby is formed in the mother's womb, the thoughts, feelings shared by mother sculpt the child's personality. The fetus responds to music as they are hearing, feeling and sensing being. Perinatal music therapy helps expectant mother during pregnancy and also during the first few months after delivery. It helps in stress relief, early bonding and strengthening the attachment with the baby.

Studies have proved that music is very helpful in establishing and maintaining early communication, creating a transition from the baby's inner