

SELF DISCOVERY OF WOMEN IN THE SELECT NOVEL OF AMITAV GHOSH 'S THE HUNGRY TIDE

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ABSTRACT

*This paper has been undertaken to investigate from Indian Literature, in the twenty first century novel **The Hungry Tide** was written in the year 2005 by Indian Writer **AMITAV GHOSH**. The novel *Hungry Tide* is a Psychological novel which can be seen in the way of repression of female characters. Though many writers spring to write about the controversy themes, still in the Indian Literature some writers tends to write about the Suppression of women, Subjugation of Female in Indian Countries. The women in Indian countries are forced to be under the Male Chauvinist society. Their whole life in depended upon the male around them. Women were not allowed to go beyond their limits in ancient Indian Country. The writer brings the background of the novel in the easternmost coastal area of the Bay of Bengal. This place is known as tiny Islands, the Sundar bands. The female characters in the novels are **Piyali Roy**; the Marian Biologist came as a cetologist to seek the marine mammals. **Nilima**; the wife of Nirmal, she sacrificed her life for the welfare of other women in the tide countries. **Kusum**; is a modern rebellionist who fought for the Morichijhapi Massacre in 1979. **Moyna**; the wife of Fohir, she was forced to sacrifice her dreams to look after her family. All the female characters are struggling to achieve their dreams and liberation among the male Chauvinistic society. All the women are suppressed to live in boundaries. Their independence is prohibited. This presentation shows how women attain their identity and discover their self in spite of lot of repression.*

KEY WORDS

Male Chauvinism, struggle, self-empowerment, identity, self discovery

INTRODUCTION

Indian writing in English was onset when the Indian Institutions has set the English Literature as a subject in their universities. Later Indians are anglicized in the language skill and improved in the use of language and started to express their thoughts against societal norms and superstitious belief in the country. In 1864 the first Indian novel *Rajmohan's Wife* was published. Later many writers spouts their ideas for their people and their thoughts. Among them R.K Narayan, Rabindranath tagare, Ruskin Bond, Vikram Seth, Arundhati Roy, Jumapa Lahiri, Sashi Deshpande, Amitav ghosh, Bharati Mukherjee, Anita Desai, Perumal Murgan, Bama, Kiran Desai, etc. expressed their thoughts for the liberation of Dalit and women in the society. Among them Amitav Ghosh is an Indian- Bengali author. He has Contributed more about the identity and discovery in women in his novel *The Hungry Tide*. He is a novelist and essayist, editor, Professor and a publisher in the Penguin Books India. Amitav Ghosh famous novels are *Sea of Poppies*(2008), *The Shadow lines*(1988), *The Glass Palace*(2000), *The Hungry Tide*(2004) etc., Ghosh's fiction is characterized by strong themes which is identified as post colonialism. His concepts are Personal and unique; Ghosh's prose is too pedantic and too precise; *The Hungry tide* answers the question about the quest of women for the self discovery as who they are in the world? What is the reason for their in this world?

ROLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN LITERATURE:

Women Empowerment mainly concentrated liberation in individual level. Empowerment of women is the progress helping women in getting education and necessary skills in the modern society. Women empowerment acknowledges the gender discrimination seen in the society. Women are marginalized at every level of societal norms as in physical, mental and psychological level. Authors started to give the context of women's development is a way of defining, challenging and overcome barriers in women's life. Multi dimensional is a process that enables women to realize their identity and sphere of life. Many writers like Margaret Atwood, Virginia Woolf and Tony Morrison wrote

for the empowerment of women in several novels, poems, short stories, and satires. Women empowerment demonstrates the definition of relationship between the structure and society. Its multidimensional has become exercise in the society. As years passed, the writers of Indian writing in English contributed their thoughts and idea to the society through various novel and fictions that made the society to think about the flaws which pushes down women to be suppressed. Later writers gave their contribution to themes like quest for self- identity, equality, liberation for women and also contributed against violence in religion and society, Patriarchal society and male- chauvinistic.

PIYALI ROY

Piyali Roy is an American born citizen of Indian Origin. She comes to Sunderbans to make research of world's rarest species of dolphins. Piyali faces dangers in several ways; she is new to the tide country, as she is a born American, Piyali faces language barrier. While traveling in train with Kanai Dutt a co passenger interrupts with Piya as a translator. Piyali tries to avoid Kanai, he ruthlessly disturbs by interrupting with her. After landing in the country Piyali seeks help from the pilot guard Mejda. Mejda is an abusive man who does not listen to Piyali words and then gives her Physical abuse with his waving of looking. "But her experience with guard has bruised her confidence and she felt as though she recovering from an assault" (THT 64) later she affords with Fohir and consoles herself Fohir is an Illiterate Fisherman but innocent in heart. The **Oppressive Patriarchy** which debases women identity makes women not to get their identity. She was pulled out the ship and left over in sea even though she fought herself and completed her research.

NILIMA

Nilima is also other outsider to the tide country. Nilima loves Nirmal a professor while pursuing college. They elope to get married, because her family was respectable family among the village. In 1950's it was hard for a woman to stand alone against the society. Nilima with her western education and urban life style suffers a lot to cop up with Nirmal and life. But somehow she manages to adjust new ways of life. Nirmal her husband does not seek the adjustment of Nilima he just runs behind the idealist communist dreams. Nirmal had no care for the Nilima as solo strong woman Nilima tries hard with the tide country and started a trust with good infrastructure such as hospital, school, guest house which was similar to NGO organization. Kanai says about Nilima as "In their family, Nilima was legendary tenacity has built Badaban" (THT 19). Even though Nilima does good things the Society consider her to a barren woman. Nilima was childless, she is failed to fulfill the Essential duty of a woman. So with this reason the **patriarchal society attempted to choke her voice**. Nilima did not have her own child but she had thousands of children to take care in Badaban. The barren women are not allowed to be happy in the society but Nilima wants herself identity to be proven so she does not listen to the society about the talking of people. At last succeed in the way she wanted to live

KUSUM

Kusum is strong lady who brought the Mission Marichihapi in Nirmal life. Kusum as a teenager travels outside the world in search of her mother. Her mother in her young age was sent for prostitution in northern states of India. Horen says, such young girls are demand in prostitution business. A man called Dilip says that her mother was sent to prostitution in search of Kusum. Horen helps Kusum in spite of leaving her wife and children and travel with her to Bihar. Kusum is not allowed to live liberally in tide country. She chooses an illiterate fisherman. He died while he went to sea. The wife in the land area had nothing to do to just remind to face the widowhood. "it was the custom for their wives to change into the garments of widowhood"(THT 80). These women face the same plight and the life of abuse and exploitation, after demise of the dear ones. After being a widow she was sent as refuge to Pakistan and faces new phase of struggle in life. Kusum is torn between the love triangles of her illiterate husband, Horen and Nirmal. In spite these plight she does not allow anyone to dominate her. She almost conquers for her own life. though The Male Horen, Nirmal thinks Kusum as women **with flesh to fulfill their desire** but she wants to live for her people. So she lived and died as martyr in Marichiappi massacre.

MOYNA

Moyna is the wife of Fohir. She struggled a lot to define her identity. She survived hard to educate herself; she walked kilometers to another village to get education. Moyna is a ambitious girl who had the dreams to achieve in life. "She was not be shy of pitting her will against the world" (THT 130). Her husband made her to catch Crabs instead of making her to work in a institution. The patriarchy family insists her to **sacrifice her dreams**. "The dream of becoming a nurse was no ordinary yearning; it was product of desire as richly and completely imagined as a novel or a poem" (THT 135). After the death of her husband the society makes Moyna to be suppressed with impoverished village norms. But Moyna strongly restrict these norms and followed her mother in law attribute and went in path of dreams and achieved her dreams.

CONCLUSION

This is the eternal tragedy of women who are considered more as ‘flesh’ to satisfy the hunger of men than human beings with desire and aspirations. Kanai’s description as “nasty young morsel” preferred by Tiger well testified to claim. Nilima sadly says to Kanai, “you’re all the same, you men. Who blame tigers when predators like you pass for human beings?”(THT 234)

The above predicaments brings out that Piya, Nilima, Kusum, Moyna are the victims of patriarchy. The rebel for the struggle of **Self identity** was hard to achieve in spite of their personal dreams. Likewise, the male chauvinistic society cruelly hunt the women’s life as Mejda thought about abusing Piyali physically, Nirmal avoiding Nilima because she is infertile, illiterate Fohir does not have the knowledge of giving freedom to his educated wife Moyna. All these women faces more hindrance in order prove what are they in the society? But one thing make us to think is in spite these hurdles they fought for their dreams, success and achievements and attained to discover them as Piyali as a marine biologist, Moyna is a nurse, Nilima is a chairperson to the trust and Kusum a Martyr for her people.

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