

The Concept Of New Women By Nayantara Sahgal And Shobha De In Their Novels.

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ABSTRACT

History and Literature have excluded women from the focus. Down the centuries women are historic and have lived through men. This is further accentuated with the advent of Feminism. Feminism, as a movement and as a popular form in the 20th century has affected all forms – social, political and economical. In my paper I discuss the concept of New Women.

Emergence of “New Woman” is an important phenomenon in English Indian literature. The conventional image of womanhood coming down the ages based on idea that it is a social construct by the process of social, economical and political upheaval in Indian society. The new generations of writers talk about the self-realization of women. The high class, educated, sensible women became protagonists in their novels. We see that these strong women satisfy in a very complex way. Among these writers Nayantara Sahgal and Shobha De has a separate space for their attention towards physical, mental and psychological concerns. Their women were new class of women whose lives are not infested by problems of dowry or poverty. These Indian women lived a blessed life as far as material standards are concerned, but there was something wanting, some vacuum in their lives. These women were facing the problem of identity. They are concerned about basic human problems and to them a woman is a mother, a daughter, a housewife and working women, and above all she is a woman. Their women are the victims of male-dominated society.

Key Words: *Feminism, Modern Women, Self-realization, Indian women, New Women, Social, political and economic conditions, Sexually liberated, hardship suffering etc.*

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