



SELF-ESTEEM, INEQUALITY, INHUMANITY IN ANITA NAIR'S *THE BETTER MAN AND LADIES COUPE*

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ABSTRACT

Anita Nair's 'The Better man and Ladies Coupe' both these two novels denote the same subject of Self-Esteem. Mukundan is the central character of this novel. Mukundan appears to be an escapist who run away from his responsibilities. He was frightened of the society. Mukundan is eight years old the bond between father and son does not develop. It has become inferior. Achuthan Nair chooses to settle in Kaikurussi after leave his job. He was required to survive in his village. But he wants to run away from his house by obtain the job of clerk in Trichy. In his native village there he meets a poor 'One screw loose Bhasi' a house painter. Mukundan helps to Base to pick up his land from the Power House Ramakrishnan. Bhasi is the man who helps Mukundan to Later he was distinguish that his village is to become the equitable place for his future. Understand his self-esteem. Anita Nair's second novel "Ladies Coupe", Akhilandeswari is the most significant role of this novel. Akhila is the forty –five years old, single, and working as a clerk has been brought up in a Conservative Brahmin family. She sacrifices her life for her family, and she did not have any pleasure, aspiration in her life. On her way to Kanyakumari there she meets five different women characters, and both of them to sharing their stories with each other. The rain journey actually the indicate a journey absent from family and responsibilities ad a journey that will eventually compose the aware of the self-esteem.

METHODOLOGY:

Anita Nair is one of the most important women writers in Indian English. Anita Nair was born in shornur in Kerala. Nair was educated in Chennai before returning to Kerala where she gain a B.A English Literature. Nair's novels "The better man" and Ladies coupe have been translated into 21 Languages. The better man [2000] which also has been available in Europe and United States. in Anita Nair's Ladies coupé and The



Betterman. Feminism emerge in the western world as a movement in support of the same rights and opportunities for women. Feminism is defined as a cultural, economic and political movement that is focused towards establishing legal protection and complete equal opportunity for women.

INTRODUCTION:

Anita Nair is one of most significant women writer in Indian Writing English. Anita Nair's first work 'The Better man' and her second novel 'Ladies Coupe' was translated into 21 languages. Ladies Coupe has a more admiration than the first novel 'The Better man. Anita Nair always concentration about women's investigate of independence, and recognition. Anita Nair's characters have come out of their struggle and search their self-identity. Nair's novels investigate the freedom of the women character as a daughter, wife, mother and so on. Anita Nair's novels are mainly paying attention the eternal and internal identity of her female characters. Anita Nair used very simple and language so the readers easily to understand the novel, and stories. Anita Nair has written six novels. These are *The Better man*, *Ladies coupe*, *Mistress*, *Lessons in forgetting*, *Cut like wound*, and *Idris: Keeper of the light*.

MUKUNDAN-AKHILANDESWARI:

Mukundan is the leading role of this novel 'The Betterman'. Mukundan appear to be an escapist and try to escapes from his obligation. He was scared about the society. But his father never afraid about the society and he always think about his own. So he determined to escape from his house, and does not take his mother. After many years later he understands his fault, and returned his village of Kaikurussi. In the few weeks of his return home he meets a Bhasi, house painter expressive healer of the village. Bhasi is very poor man and he has a piece of land for his own. But in the village influential man and also a richest man wants to construct a Community Hall in poor Bhasi's land. So Bhasi wants help from Mukundan who against the Power House of Ramakrishnan. Bhasi decline to sell his land. Power House of Ramakrishna tries to intimidate Bhasi and throw him out of the village. But Mukundan saved the Bhasi's land from the Power House of Ramakrishnan.

After this incident, Mukundan choose to become a better man that he is at present. He understands that his father will be against many obstacles. The only thing that remainder to be done now is the demolition of Community Hall. Finally, Mukundan acknowledged his Self-Esteem. Anita Nair's second novel is 'Ladies Coupe. 'Akhiladeswari is a forty-five years old single women who belongs from the Conservative Brahmin Family. Akhila accept the burden of her family after her father's death. Her sisters and brothers grown up and get married and they are think about Akhila's wishes and ambition. So Akhila wants to depart from her house and continuous her travel to Kanyakumari. In her travel Akhila meets different women characters. Each character has a different type of story in their life. One night in the

coupe and her contact with the five women helped Akhila to grasp that the other women stories and her Self- Esteem.

ANJANA, VALSALA-MARGARET SHANTHI:

Anjana is a very vital women character in ‘The Better man’ novel. When she married ‘Ravindran’ at the age of twenty-seven, she has missing all her independent in the name of marriage. Her marriage life is not comfortable. She longs for love and self-determination but her life ends with disappointment. Then Anjana goes to her parent’s house after she settled her parent’s house. Her husband’s business will become unsuccessful he decided to start a new one. Ravindran tries to forget his wife. Anjana’s father finds an appropriate job for his daughter, to liberate for her past life incident. She like her job and read magazine and book. Later she gets affirmative thoughts in her mind. Anjana wants equality from her husband Ravindran. But he was never feeling about his wife Anjana. So she does not bother about the society. She left from her husband’s house and joined in the school.

Valsala is a wife of an aged school master Sridharan. Valsala never gets any freedom from him. She wants equality from her husband. She is the wife of Prabhakaran an aged school master. Valsala is not fulfilled with him. So she falls in love affair with Sridharan. She does not bother about the Society. She is aware of the fact that every women needs the energizer of love, freedom, and equality from the man. Valsala and Sridharan, they do not feel guilty of it. She is against tradition and method. Valsala wants the freedom not only psychologically but sexually too. These two women Character is to facing a lot of dilemma, pain, effort from their own family and society. They are breaking the social atmosphere and system.

Margaret Shanthi is also a significant women character in Anita Nair’s second novel ‘Ladies Coupe’. Margaret Shanthi is the Chemistry School Teacher. Her husband name was ‘Ebenezer Paul raj is a principal of the school. Later she understands her husband’s character. Ebenezer asked his wife try to abort her first pregnancy. But she never recognizes her husband’s argument. She didn’t get any choice from him. *“I hate him, I hate him, what I going to do”* this statement was delivered by Margaret Shanthi. Finally; she divorced her husband and starting her trip to Kanyakumari. In these women characters like Anjana and Margaret Shanthi life experiences clearly to suggest the theme of ‘Inequality’. They did not get any parity and self-determination, respects from their husbands.

SHEELA-MARIKOLUNTHU:

Sheela is very youngest and fourteen years old girl child under the supervision of her grandmother. Sheela is a fourteen years old who talks about the female child exploitation by men. Sheela felt humiliated and injure at the unwanted touching of Hasina’s father Nazar. But



Sheela have a mental maturity in her own. After this event she decided never got Hasina's house which means of her self-defense. This particular event clearly expresses the attitude of 'Inhumanity' in the 'Ladies Coupe'. Marikolunthu is thirty one years old and an unwed mother who is casualty of man's desire. In her childhood days she was works as a servant, that time she was ill-treated by a man without her permission. She lost her happy childhood life because of her family poor situation. Poverty, Child Abuse, and Lesbianism all these incidents are completely spoiled her imagination, delusion and happiness. Sheela and Marikolunthu these two women are facing many obstacles in their life, but not only mentally even though physically affected by the inhumanity people.

BHASI:

Bhasi is the main character in 'The Better man' novel. He is a medical practioner in the name of the village Kaikurussi. He has a small piece of land for him. But in the village very influential and also a richest man is called in the name of Power House of Ramakrishnan. Ramakrishnan decided to construct a new community hall the village. So he choose the place for build a hall in the 'Loose Bhasi's land. He was not to accept to sell his land for that building. So he was threatened by Ramakrishnan. No one to help Bhasi. Mukundan is the protagonist of this novel. After many years later he returned his village. In his native village there he meets a poor 'One screw loose Bhasi' a house painter. Mukundan helps to Bhasi to pick up his land from the Power House Ramakrishnan. Both these two novel incidents are clearly convey the theme of 'Inhumanity'. The Better man novel the poor loose Bhasi who exposed by the powerful man Ramakrishnan. And also the second novel 'Ladies Coupe' Sheela is a fourteen years old girl physically tortured by the man even though Marikolunthu is a another victim of 'Inhumanity' treat of Child Abuse and Lesbianism.

CONCLUSION:

Anita Nair is one of the talented women writers in India. Anita Nair's first novel 'The Better man has located her among the most self-conscious Indian novelists. Her second novel 'Ladies Coupe' is in some way even superior to the first novel. In Ladies Coupe Nair novels deals with the observation of patriarchy and self-identity. And also Anita Nair's second novel "LADIESCOUPE" women characters like Akhilandeswari, Prabha Devi, Margaret Shanthi, Sheela, Janaki, and Marikolunthu are the six women's sufferings are clearly portrayed by this novel. Anita Nair's in these two novels like 'The Better man 'and 'Ladies Coupe 'protagonists are 'Mukundan' and 'Akhilandeswari' character are realized their Self-Esteem in the same manner. And also the themes of 'Injustice and Inequality' are same. Marikolunthu and Sheela treated and tortured physically by the man. And again 'Margaret Shanthi and Anjana' both these character are ill-treated by their husbands. They will never get any equality and respect in their married life. They lost their freedom and equality in the name of marriage.



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