



## **IMAGES OF WOMEN LIFE IN THE NOVELS OF ANITA DESAI- FEMINISM PERSPECTIVE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Women always face difficulties in different ways in life. Women were suppressed and ill-treated by the other sex. They think that women are their slaves and will be under their control. They didn't have liberty or equality. Women weren't liberal to act on their own. They were subjected to many illegal acts and cruelty. Education was refused to them but the suppression was broke out by a number of the good women and that they proved their power. Naturally, Literature is a reflection of life. It was evident through the works. Feminism was like a medium to speak about their problems and through their works, the world came to know about their problem and so feminism in India has flourished. Anita Desai has been writing a number of the simplest English fiction in India for nearly four decades. She's been shortlisted for the person Booker prize thrice and won the SahityaAkademi Award, one among India's most prestigious literary prizes, in 1978 for her second novel, Fire on the Mountain. Familial relationships and their evolution are the most themes of Desai's fiction. This paper deals with Feminism and Marriage within the novels of Anita Desai.*

**Keywords:** *Feminism, Women status, Awareness, Patriarchy*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Equality of girls Feminism may be a collection of movements and ideologies aimed toward defining, establishing, and defending equal political, economic, and social rights for ladies . In addition, feminism seeks to determine equal opportunities for ladies in education and employment. The feminist theory created through these feminist movements aims to understand the symptoms of gender inequality by examining women's social roles and living

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experiences; In the meantime the theory has evolved a variety of disciplines so as to reply to issues like the social construction of sex and gender. Some of the sooner sorts of feminism are criticized for taking under consideration only white, middle-class, educated perspectives. This led to the creation of ethnically specific or multiculturalist's sorts of feminism. Feminism is that the belief that each one people should be treated equally in legal, economic, and social arenas- no matter gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and other similar pre-dominant identifying traits. Feminism includes the thought that an individual's gender doesn't define who they're or their worth; that being a lady (or a man) shouldn't put a person at an overall- and especially institutionalized- disadvantage. Language in India. Feminism as a social movement sought to redress the imbalance in society by providing women with the same rights and opportunities as men, in order to be able to take their rightful place in the world. The resurgence of feminism in the 1970's led to the realization that equal rights alone could not liberate women from sexual and social subjugation. Intellectual starvation, economic expression, commercial exploitation, domestic domination, physical abuse, harassment, and lack of private freedom continued to affect the lives of girls in spite of laws to the contrary. Hence, Western feminist writers and critics were forced to re-analyze and re-access the socio-cultural setup trying to find clues to elucidate the mechanism of patriarchy that contrived to stay women eternally subjugated.

### **Anita Desai:**

Anita Desai has been writing a number of the simplest English fiction in India for nearly four decades. She was nominated for the person Booker Prize Three times and therefore the Sahitya Akademi Award for her second novel, "Fire on the Mountain", in 1988, which was India's most prestigious literary award. Familial relationships and their evolution are the foremost themes of Desai's fiction. She has taught at various colleges within the US, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her latest book is that the "Zigzag Way" (2004).

### **Reflection in Literature:**

the increase of feminism, which began within the nineteenth century and surged again within the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>, there has been an explosion of literature, in every genre, by women. Studies of women's literature have shown that there are certain common themes that tend to play call at women's writing. Since the start of the women's movement, there has been a robust rise within the amount of literature that's self-consciously feminist in tone, clearly espousing the ideals of female equality. Feminists have also studied other women's writings, including those of an earlier time, probing them with renewed interest about what sets women's writings apart and what commonalities they'll have. One of the first themes of



feminist writing is its insistence on expressing and valuing women's point of view about their own lives. While earlier in history, it had been primarily men who wrote, from their own point of view, about women, the priority of feminist writing is to put women within the position of authority about their own lives and experiences, to listen to and believe women's voices. If one main theme might be claimed for feminist literature, and for feminist evaluation of literature, it might be the importance of taking note of female voices of all Color without taking men and women's experiences seriously. Indian women writers have garnered critical praise for his or her scintillating literary prowess and making social issues a key a neighborhood of their work. Indian women authors writing in English like Kiran Desai and Arundhati Roy have earned international renown.

### **Feminism in Anita Desai's Novels:**

Marital discord recurs because the theme of the novels of Anita Desai. Her novels, which are filled with somewhat feminist concerns, portray a failed relationship that often results in isolation and loneliness. Her novels, like, 'Cry the Peacock', 'Where we could Go This Summer?' 'Voices within the City' and 'Bye-Bye Blackbird' also affect the theme of marital disharmony, the novel 'Cry, the Peacock' is especially concerned with the theme of disharmony between husband and wife relationship. Desai pays attention to the explanation of marital differences and explains how such differences affect the family. Sometimes, the lack of a private to be aware of the behavior patterns of her partner results in strain and tension within the relationship, while sometimes it's on account of varying levels of sensitivity that strained relationships occur. during this novel, Maya and Gautama have strained relationships thanks to their incompatible temperament. Maya is dreamy, sensitive and emotional and Gautama is realistic, angry and prudent. Maya is poetry and upliftment Gautama is different, philosophical and calm. Maya has tenderness, softness, and heat , Gautama is tough and cold. The marital bond that unites the two is extremely fragile. When Maya kills Gautama then commits suicide, the growing tension between the two is seen. Anita Desai's concern is primarily about human relationships and on how an individual has got to suffer within the absence of meaningful relationships. She probes the psychic compulsion which will affect a private in forging future and significant relationships and the way a private is affected if he's unable to forge such relationships. Nirode, one of the foremost characters, is enthusiastic to the connection of his mother with major Chadha and considers her a she-cannibal. She has a love affair in Kalimpong which itself can also be the result of dissatisfaction in the marital relationship. Nirode's relationship along side his mother could also be a love-hate relationship. we've veiled suggestions of his mother's fixation and according to psychologists' hatred often could also be a defense mechanism of the psyche to stop one from committing incest. If the tragedy of Maya in action, the peacock, arises from the impulse of her father, then the tragedy of Nirod is in the love-hate relationship with her



mother. The novel also discusses the inconsistent marriage of Monisha and Jeevan. Monisha's husband may be a prisoner of conventional culture. He believes that a woman's most vital roles besides childbearing are cooking, vegetables cutting, food serving, and brushing small children's hair under the authority of a stern mother-in-law. Monisha feels that her privacy is being denied to her. Her husband is busy along side his middle-rank government job with no time for Monisha and no desire to share her feeling. The theme of alienation is treated in terms of the mother-children relationship which itself may be a consequence of dissonance within the husband-wife relationship. Monisha leads an equally fragmented and starved life. She is alienated from her mother also as her husband. The graph of her mental life are often constructed from her long searching and self – confronting entire within the diary. Her relationship together with her husband is characterized only by loneliness and lack of communication. He assures his wife that he has no value as a result. He doesn't bother to ask his wife when he finds some money missing from his pocket even. Monisha's ill-matched marriage, her loneliness, sterility, and stress of living during a joint family with an insensitive husband push her to verge of collapse . The element of affection is missing in her life and eventually , she commits suicide.

In 'Where we could Go This Summer?' Anita Desai chooses marital discord because the fabric of this novel and highlights how the shortage to urge bare one's soul and express freely one's fear and anguish leads to the snapping of communication between husband and wife. Different attitudes, individual complexes, and fears increase this distancing between the husband and thus the wife resulting in conjugal disharmony. Rama and Sita have an unchanging nature and a way of looking at life. The ill-assorted few Raman and Sita are confronted with an equivalent problem of husband-wife discord. Sita represents a world of emotion and feminine sensibility while Raman could also be a person with an active view of life and thus the sense of the sensible .Sita may be a nervous, sensitive middle-aged woman with explosive and emotional reactions to several things that happen to her, she always wants to flee reality and doesn't want to get older and face the responsibilities of adult life. On the contrary, Raman represents the prose of life, it represents discretion, justification and the norms and values of society. He's unable to understand the violence and keenness with which Sita reacts against every incident. His reaction to his wife's frequent outbursts could also be a mix of puzzlement, weariness, fear, and eventually a resigned acceptance of her abnormality. He cannot comprehend her boredom, her frustration along side her . During this novel theme of alienation and lack of communication in married life is discussed by the author. Sita finds herself alienated from her husband and kids. She remains an ignored personality since childhood. She is that the product of a broken family. She yearns to possess the attention and love of others but her father remains busy alongside his chelas and patients. Even after marriage, she remains lonely. Her husband is also busy. He fails to satisfy her expectation. As a result, there is marital discord, the tension between husband and wife.



Her novel 'Fire on the Mountain' grapples with the theme of relationship between husband and wife, and lack of understanding in marital life. The novel records the story of Nanda Kaul, the Vice-Chancellor's wife who has chosen the house of top of a mountain in Carignano within the village of Kasauli, as her shelter faraway from the disturbances of family and society. Life with the Vice-Chancellor had long ordeal with only the duties and responsibilities of her position with none love attached thereto . She is disillusioned together with her selfish, infidel husband, who "treated her simply as some useful object". She played the gracious hostess all the time for her husband, who "wanted her always in silk, at the top of the long rosewood table within the dinning-room, entertaining his guests". Gopal N.R. In the words of, "She is so busy raising the family and carrying out the responsibilities of mother, housewife and nurse that she is happy with her implementation in the evenings of her life, even if it is partly voluntary and related to some circumstances." Mrs. Desai probes deep into the problematic lifetime of Nanda Kaul, who, besides being the wife of a Vice-Chancellor and leading an expensive life, is satiated by it. "From the outside Kaul was a perfect couple for the college community but from the inside they were all empty, the whole social role and socialization was just a lie. Her life together with her husband was "lacking in composition and harmony"

## CONCLUSION:

hand, she is at the top of the ladder of success, on the other hand, she has to endure the severe condemnation of the violence against her by the circle of her relatives. As compared with past, women in times have achieved tons but actually they need travel an extended way. Their path is full of roadblocks. The women have left the secured domain of their home and are now within the battlefield of life, fully armoured with their talent. They had proved themselves, But in India they are yet to urge their dues. Its prove that Anita Desai's writings which has made her one of the great feminist of the times.

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