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**CONVENTION AND MODERNITY SYNDROME IN THE FEMALES PROTAGONISTS**

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The Indo-English novelists until thirties wrote the nationalist orientation everywhere partook of social and radical movements which were greatly influenced by the Gandhian ethos. But the novelists of the 1960s shifted the focus to the individual's quest for personal meaning and his or her existential problems and social relationships. After independence, several women writers tried to analyse psyche of the exploited woman. Post-Independence literature reveals the woman's quest : quest for identity; quest for a separate and special place in contemporary society, is giving rise to a number of issues. After the nineteenth century, there was a change – a protest was recorded and sympathy for women was expressed. Feminist ideology, which came to India from the west, is widely spread in India. Intellectuals, writers and the educated of the urban area feel its ideological impact. Feminist trends came into conflict with conventional moral code. Post-Independence literature in India voices the clamours of women for a new way of life.

**Key words:** Indo-English novelists, interested, romance**INTRODUCTION**

Kamala Markandaya wrote for the readers of 50s, when woman had to be struggled that not every thing is okay with woman's world and she is heading towards rotting, so she has to start a fight against the blockade in her way to have a human feel. However, in whatever field, the woman comes to a realization and decides to do it, her conventional, non-thinking role is a big obstacle. This woman came face to face with crude realities of existence especially due to partition. She had learnt that she cannot afford to live a borrowed courage. At this time, a unique realization surfaced from the sub consciousness of woman and that was – why not making the decisions herself if she has, in any case, to bear with the result of man's decision.

It is obvious that Kamala Markandaya, with her ten novels to her credit, is one of the most prolific Indian-English novelists. In comparison to other contemporary novels, Markandaya's novels reflect the awakened feminine sensibility in modern India as she attempts to project the image of the changing traditional society. Markandaya presents her "woman" with a new identity, a sense of modernity though they belong to a traditional background. Her protagonists explore the entire domain of their family life, their social and inter-personal relationships as well as their role as mother, daughter, wife and sister in a new frame of reference, which they have evolved for themselves. A woman is new when she analyses and reflects upon her position essentially as a woman in the pattern, which includes the social, moral and spiritual fields.

Kamala Markandaya's fiction offers many varieties of settings and characters though her quintessential themes are few as — the East-West encounter and woman in different roles. But woman plays a significant role in almost all her novels and readers cannot neglect her "woman-subject". In the majority of her works we have women narrators. She portrayed a large repertoire of woman in a changing Indian society. Her novels present an awareness of the socio-economic forces and their impact on woman. Any study of Kamala Markandaya would remain incomplete without "woman" because, in her novels it is the woman who occupies the central place.

### INDIAN-ENGLISH NOVEL WRITING

Feminism has played a significant role in shaping the Indian-English novel. Since it came rather late in India, has spread its wings in all spheres of Indian-English literature. Feminism is a voice of suppressed and down-trodden woman. The feelings of anxiety, aversion and boredom have been part of feminism. The present section aims at clarifying the concept of womanhood (feminism) as it emerges from the works of eminent Indian writers in English. A consistent picture of the changing social realities has been presented and it is still being tabled by the Indian-English novels. The writers who appeared in Indian-English literary scene are of great importance. They gave birth to a new era which held out for the Indian woman opportunities for a dynamic participation in social life. Indian-English novelists, especially women novelists have made themselves as a significant entity by making the novel itself an instrument of social reform. They have sociological and reformist motivation with their invariable theme that is woman.

The Indian writers, especially women writers appear much concerned with the challenges and problems of contemporary woman in present society. Indian writers of fiction in English are exploring the psychological and sociological strains in woman's life.

The rise of feminism as a movement on continent gave woman various ways to express her feelings. She found a canvas to paint her own world. Fiction by women writers contributes a major segment of the contemporary Indian-writing in English. A potential of human achievements and a totally different world have been realized by women writers because in any sphere of Indian-English literature and appreciation of the writing of its, woman is essential.

Literature has always been a powerful medium of expressing emotions, feelings and views of a writer and thus providing a great deal of healing for any society. Indian-English literature began as an interesting by-product and has now established its credentials all over the world. Novel is a work of fiction in which imagination and intellect are combined to express life in the form of a story and imagination is directed and controlled by intellect. It is more interested in men and women than in romance or adventure. Its aim to show the motives and influences which governs human life, and the effects of personal choice upon character. Novel opens a wider and more interesting field than any other type of literature.

### CONCLUSIONS

Kamala Markandaya establishes a dialogue on her subject and dwells upon a solution that woman has to change now. If change is inevitable why not changing in her own interest. She can now clearly differentiate between sacrifice and suicide so she is in no mood to slaughter her dreams for the sake of others' dreams. Ultimate contradiction in Indian society happens to be that woman is regarded as the weaker, insignificant in a land where since time immemorial; people have been worshipping the marital goddess (which happens to be a glorification of woman's powerful personality). As a matter of fact, woman is not treated as a subject of serious or even a normal concern. Either she is a goddess of power or the weaker sex; in no way is she a normal human existence, endowed with normal powers and demanding normal attention. Questions of minorities, slaves, savages and underdog have been taken up and worked upon. Gradually they ceased to be any questions at all, or their size, at least, was reduced. Question of woman as a weaker, neglected, backward class – still holds its initial shape and size. It seems we have started enjoying woman's existence as a question.

The motto of these novelists is to reveal that the greatest revolutions take place in mind; all revolutions begin here. So we have to change the mindset of our patriarchal society. They always stress that it is not necessary to watch out, to commit adultery, to divorce, to prove defiance or a rejection of tradition. None of these are modern anyway. Both woman and man have to work a lot to create a balanced atmosphere. Both will have to give space each other's world, then there would not be any need to celebrate woman's day. Certainly, woman will have to work hard to achieve that position which she demands.

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