

# Amplification of Women's Role in Society That Impact in Literatures

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## Abstract

Until comparatively recently, the majority of publication writers were men and the portrayed of women in literature was inevitably one-side. In the ancient world literary was severely limited and the majority of these who could write were male however the contribution of women underestimated in folk songs, stories and nursery rhymes a tradition which eventually fed into written culture.

Renaissance women: Chaucer's wife of bath may be a stereotype the harridan or shrew is found in other medieval writings such as Noah's wife in some of the mystery plays. By the time of Shakespeare one can detect a note of cynicism. In sonnets 130 he writes "My Mistress" eyes are nothing like Sun... and proceeds to turn the conventional image of the mistress on its head. This woman's breath reeks. In 17<sup>th</sup> century there is a wide range of female representation in the literature of the era. Although the common stereotype. After 1660 female actors were allowed on stage in England and sexual intrigue became the staple of the theatre. Amongst the stereotype restoration comedy were sexually voracious young widows and older women. Over the last 10 year novelist, whether male or female have explored the psychology and social roles of women with increasing women role in society that will explain in the novel *Ladies Coupe*.

**Keywords:** psychology, social roles.

## Introduction

It is widely recognized that literature is the reflection of the society. Literature reflects the insights and attitudes of the society. It portrays human life through characters, by their words and actions convey message for the purpose of education, information and pleasure. It is not wrong to say that literature is witness to evolution of women through ages. The changing role of women in literature from the past to present indicates the development of women and women empowerment. From the ancient scriptures the status of women in India can be stated as equal to men. Vedas like Rig Vedas and Upanishads wrote about women sage and prophet like Gargi and Matreyi. Classic Sanskrit literature begins with epics and purines. These serves as source of

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**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 20:3 March 2020

**Prof. Dr. S. Chelliah, Editor: Select Papers of the International Conference on  
Human Praxis and Modern Configuration through Literature -- VOLUME 2**

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inspiration for writing to later poets, which also influenced in shaping the women characters. The epic Ramayana and Mahabharata women characters have traits that had their unfair moments of overthrow due to their gender. Women were considered less worthy than men and are still objects used for the pleasure of men. The fact is that that these characters were curated and edited to suit the needs of a male-controlled society. While Sitha has been greeted for her sacrificing nature, Draupadi has been known for her sharp declamation and comments and has been branded as being the centrifugal force that caused the Mahabharata. Women in Greek Mythology show that women's rights were very partial and not allowed to express much of their freedom. In ancient Greek life role of women was considered to be unimportant compared to that of Greek men. Most of the popular plays in Greek have female characters compound, taking upon the role of not only heroine, but also the role of villain and role of victim. The medieval literature show women follow to the narrow roles of wives, mothers. It is apparent from medieval literature restrictions placed on women underwent significant changes, As the period went on, women gradually began to express more of her opinions and had equal role in society.

### **Women Characters in Literature**

The ideal gender shown that more passive qualities were feminine qualities, that is not to say that they were qualities all women naturally possessed. However, in some circumstances it was acceptable women who possessed more masculine qualities for example, Shakespeare's Kate inspired those around her to shun her. Spenser's heroine, though chaste and beautiful, was masculine as represented by her cross dressing as a Knight and her magic spear in her adventure, a strong character who very actively fought as a knight and saved lives. Shakespeare's famous Lady Macbeth is determined and ambitious, convincing her husband to kill the king even after he had convinced himself not to. That she cannot bring herself to do the deed herself is indicative of the weakness that comes with her being a woman-she can start the action, Speaking of description of women in Indian poetry, Mahadevi Varma, a freedom-fighter, educationist and activist became the mirror of Hindi poetry on women issues. She also wrote on issues of women's liberation. She sketched inspiration for her subjects from traditional Hindu literature, which talked about liberating images. Jai Shankar Prasad also portrayed women as strong glorified. He became famous for his strong exposes of women. A popular verse from one of his most widely read poems, "Nari! tum kewal shraddha ho, Vishwas-rajat-nag-pal- tal mein, Piyush strot si baha karo, Jeevan ki sundar samtal mein, which means, Oh woman! You are honor personified, Under the silver mountain of faith, Flow you, like a river of ambrosia, On this beautiful earth. In Indian regional poetry of 20th century, Poetess Amrita Pritam proved to be one of the leading voices. She spoke of the aftermath of the India-Pakistan partition in the region of Punjab and the women troubled in due course in her Punjabi verses. Kamala Das paved way for a heart-rending style of feminine confessional poetry, in which a common theme was the exploration of the man-woman relationship. This style was subsequently taken up by other

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women poets such as Gauri Deshpande and Chitra Narendran. R.K. Narayan one among great Indian novelist. He wrote many novels such as, “Mr Sampath” (1949), “The Financial Expert” (1952), “Waiting for the Mahatma” (1955), “The Guide” (1958), “The Vendor of Sweets” (1967), “The Painter of Signs” (1977), etc. Most of his novels were on contemporary social issues. His novels have women characters not as central characters but are often secondary characters like mother, sister, friends, wife or foreigners. Susila, Rosie, Rukmini, Laxmi etc are his different female characters in different novels, but they are not objecting women. These characters of women have the usual feminine weakness and surrender themselves under the male domination. He portrays female characters who accept marriage as their fate, about which they can do nothing but suffer patiently. These characters are ever shy and demure as traditional Indian women should always be.

### **Objective**

Anita Nair has written six novels so far. They are “The better man”, “Ladies coupe”, “Mistress”, “lesson in Forgetting”, “Cut like wound”, and “Idris: Keeper of the light”. Among these novels, “Ladies coupe” has received much appreciation and it has been translated into 21 languages. The main focus of this research paper is to focus the feministic point to view of Anita Nair one of the most outstanding female Indian novelists in English.

### **About The Tittle**

Anita Nair’s Ladies coupe (2000) is a story of a women’s search for freedom and independence. Nair says “I am not a feminist. I enjoy being in the house. I liked to be treated nicely and pampered. I don’t think this book is feminism”. “It’s about the inner strength which I see in so many women that overpowers me”. “When 55 years ago, I was travelling in a Ladies Coupe, the women around me began talking... people talk more openly to stranger”. That is why Anita Nair keeps the title a “Ladies Coupe”.

### **Six Women Characters**

Anita Nair narrates the stories of 6 women who are travelling together in a Ladies Coupe of a train. Mainly it represents the crisis of social norms and inner wish for freedom. Akhilandeshwari alias Akhila 44 years old, single and working as a clerk, has been brought up in a conservation family of Tamil Brahmins. Akhila bear the burden of her family after her father’s death. Her brother and sisters grow up and get married but she never able to live her own life she always extension of someone’s identity. On her way to Kanyakumari, she meets five different women. They meet for the first time they share their life’s experience with each other differ in age, education background and cultural. Janaki, the oldest women in the coupe, grows up in the traditional family of being groomed into an obedient daughter, a loyal wife and doting mother. She has been locked after all life by men. She is a someone who always had a man to protect her.

Next youngest of six is Sheela, 14 years who talks about the female ashamed and hurt at unwanted touching of Hasina's father Nazar after this she took the right decision that "she never got to Hasina's house again" as a means of her self-protection. Though this character, Nair has brought out the ill-treated of women by men. Margaret Shanti, another woman is a successful chemistry teacher, embroiled in an unhappy marriage with Ebenezer Paulraj, the principal of the school she works in. He is intensive, self-absorbed and indifferent towards his wife. Margaret would like to divorce him but does not to do so because she is afraid of society. Her way of talking revenge is to feed him oily food and make him a fall and dull person. Prabha Devi is an accomplished woman whose embroidery was done after her marriage; she realized that she is a good wife, daughter-in-law and mother. She forgets how it is to be her and that's when she learns to strike a balance between being what she wants to be and being what she is expected to be and shift of swimming pool helps her realize the need for the balancing act. The most heart-rending tale is that of Marikolunthu, 31 age old and an unwed mother who is a victim of a man's lust: her poverty forcing her to do things that violate traditional social, moral injunctions. Now, she is the mother to an illegitimate child. She has experience poverty, rape, lesbianism and physical torture. "I was restless spirit warped and bitter. Sometimes I would think of the vacuum that existed within me now".

One night in the Ladies Coupe and her interaction with the five women, helped Akhila to realize that she had given the society an unnecessary power of ruling her life. Those women and their stories helped Akhil find the answer to her biggest question- 'Can a women stay single and be happy, or does a women need a man to feel complete?'. Hence, she comes to conclude that she gets back in touch with the gay who she felt in love with, someone who she did not accept for the fear of the society.

## Conclusion

"Ladies coupe" questions the status of women in a traditional bound social order that sees women exclusively in the role of an obedient daughter, a docile wife and a breeder of children. Women in post-colonial India confidently challenge such delimiting roles and assert self-dignity and personal freedom. They are to coop their basic physical and emotional needs and acts uninhabitingly to satisfy them. The journey in fact symbolizes a journey away from family and responsibilities, a journey that will ultimately make them conscious of their self-esteem and dignity. It is a journey towards self-discovery Akhila travels with the question that has been haunting all her adults' life. She meets five women character in the novel and travels with the same question. This wonderful atmosphere, delicious, warm novel takes reader into the heart of women's life I, contemporary India, revealing how the problems that women face in their relationship with husband mothers, friends, employees and children.

Anita Nair's "Ladies Coupe" brings into the focus the issue of self-realization. Though Anita Nair is not a feminist, her stories portray the sensibilities of a women, how a women looks at herself and her problems.

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**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 **20:3 March 2020**

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