



## **WOMAN AND CAPITALISM IN SHOBHA DE'S NOVELS**

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By

**Sheela. Ramagiri**

Research Supervisor

**Dr. Namratha M.**

**Professor**

Department of P.G. Studies and Research in English  
Kuvempu University

**Department of Post Graduate Studies and Research in English  
Kuvempu University,  
Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta- 577 451  
Shivamogga, Karnataka, India**

**2022**

KUVEMPU



UNIVERSITY

**Dr. Namratha M.**  
Professor

Department of Post Graduate Studies and  
Research in English, Jnana Sahyadri,  
Shankaraghatta – 577 451

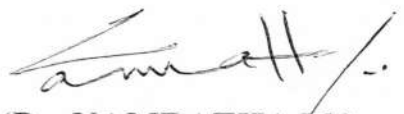
## Certificate

This is to certify that that **Sheela. Ramagiri** has worked on the thesis entitled **“Woman and Capitalism in Shobha De’s Novels”** under my supervision and guidance.

This thesis, being submitted to the Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English, is an original record of the work carried out by the candidate herself and has not been previously submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma of this or any other University in India or abroad.

Date : 11/7/2022

Place : Shankaraghatta

  
(Dr. NAMRATHA M.)  
Dr. NAMRATHA. M. M.A., P.H.D.  
Professor  
Dept. of P.G. Studies &  
Research in English  
Kuvempu University  
Jnanasahyadri  
SHANKARAGHATTA-577451

KUVEMPU



UNIVERSITY

**Sheela. Ramagiri**  
Research Scholar

Department of Post Graduate Studies and  
Research in English, Jnana Sahyadri,  
Shankaraghatta – 577 451

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## Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled “**Woman and Capitalism in Shobha De’s Novels**” is my original work and that it has not previously formed the basis for the award of any diploma, degree, fellowship or other similar title. This work was done under the supervision and guidance of **Dr. Namratha M.**, Professor, Department of Post Graduate Studies and Research in English, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, Shivamogga District, Karnataka State.

Date : 11/7/2022

Place : Shankaraghatta

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S.R.' with a flourish.

(SHEELA. RAMAGIRI)

## *Acknowledgement*

I express my heartfelt indebtedness and owe a deep sense of gratitude to my revered guide **Dr. Namratha M.**, Professor, Department of Post Graduate Studies and Research in English, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta for her ceaseless help, support and encouragement throughout my study. It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be associated with research work. Her timely suggestions, patience and serene understanding at every stage motivated me to successfully carry out this work.

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*Sheela. Ramagiri*

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## *Chapter - 1*

# *Capitalism and its Critique*

## **Chapter-1**

### **Capitalism and its Critique**

If contemporary writings of women were to be critically examined, it is sure that they struggle to give right position to women in society. From textual reality to the real life they build their separate way in almost every field so of society, Starting with Jane Austen the English writer of 18th century to the present writers of feminist approaches the inner world of the feminine is revealed in literature. There are no such boundaries where the women writing can end. Instead they innovates new things.

In that way especially in Indian English literature the Indian women authors focus on the dark life of women in society. In this list of contemporary women writings in the Indian context Shobha De too stands as a major one. Contemporary women writers are very unique by their writings because we can't justify their arguments. But which is very common or strange for readers.

As a citizen of city like Bombay she too faced many obstacles in her career. At the age of sixteen Shobha wants to join for field of modeling. But the matter reaches to Shobha's family where they follow very orthodox ways. So, they stop Shobha's yearning for modeling, instead her father being government officer suggested to daughter Shobha study civil exams. Likewise her rebellious women's characters reach every corner of media of ten in the wrong direction and with negative shades. From the impact of feminism in Indian society a number of developments take place. Where women hold their position in every aspect of society and become moral to generation or to the world.

Contemporary writers fight for their equality to male and they become successful, the writers directly pictured the role of women into dos's high capitalist society. With the help of feminism all women writers enlighten the life of women in society and as well as in the condition of family.

### **Novels of Shobha De and the Theme of Modern Capitalist Culture**

Shobha De's literary journey begins with her first novel *Socialite Evening* which was published in the year 1989. It focused on modern culture and the suffocated women in modern society. Their inner world is openly discussed by Shobha which gives special speculation on Indian society. Most of times she is hated by the orthodox readers because, of her out spoken flittering style of writing. Even in critical opinions of others she never stops her focusing on modernity into works which are labeled some times as shabby.

Shobha De's series of novels are *Second Thought, Sisters, Sultry Days, Starry Night, Snapshots, Strange Obsession, Small Betrayals, Selective Memory, Shooting from the Hip, Surviving Men, Speed Post, Spouse, Sandhya's Secret, Sethji*, she continues to write till the present day to comment on issues and pictures of modern society. Under the shadow of capitalistic living in high city Shobha's writings depict truth of human life in metro city. Her over writing exposed it very well.

Shobha De's fictional world is like a web of modern culture. She never crossed it or she never looked behind of modern culture. It is difficult to justify her view on society and her view is totally wrong, it seems, because the modern culture means not selfishness or misuse of liberty especially for women characters of Shobha. Their life begins with trouble and ends with tragedy.



Shobha creates sympathetic women characters and she hates to portray men as moral because they have dominated all time in Indian society. Her male characters are much stereotyped and women characters are seeking the newness in their individual life. The women characters are hero in their life because of their broad mind and self determination. They cross every limitation so of Indian society and culture. Those women characters are portraying the modern culture in Indian context; they bound with society and relations and cross all hurdles with success. Finally they reach what they want in life.

As a feminist writer Shobha too condemns the male for dominancy, but despite she writes on it in all works. It is strange that her rebellious novels are accepted by readers, even if it is very bad she is never concerned normal grounds of writing, including her language style which is mix of Hindi and English. Often she tags with the bourgeoisie side of modern society, which is very eager for modern culture. Shobha opens secrets of capitalistic life sometimes linked with underworld activities. She reveals all hidden matters of film stars, politicians, high business persons, and social workers and common people, all who live in the name of modern culture.

Shobha's works reveals women are not marginalized but they are independent about their life and desires. She too wants to put end to patriarchy and the dominating of male on female: her creativeness directly hit on this matter. Her work provides the different frames of women social conditions, which challenge them by such orthodoxy. They break up all the limitations and enter into as separate system. In her own life Shobha De too-as daughter, wife and mother of six children and as writer she fulfills life. She still continues to write in the various fields, literary and contemporary issues of society.

Her views are different from others and her direct comments attract readers and are sometimes criticized by society. Having many ups and downs in social as well as in personal life, she has become amoral to Indian women.

Shobha De's works are really the mirror of modern culture and life of capitalism. Her direct focus is on the dark side of human relations. And liberated women characters are good instances of this in every fictions of De, from the middle class to high class they imitate the modern culture which is faraway from their reach as they are steeped in male dominancy.

De views women and men relations based on sex. Therefore her created fictional world reveals only the plat form of sex, money, and power. For this opportunity the human race become wrapped in the vivid ways of society, it may be right or wrong their urge for success and wealth never stops. Sometimes it seems the over liberty of women go in the wrong way of society, and there are many instances in Shobha De's works, such characters as Maya in *Second Thought*, Mikki in *Sisters*, Aasha Rani in *Starry Night*, Swathi in *Snapshots*, and so. Hence the lists of women characters match with theme new role follow the modern culture. De's works glittered. In her fictional world which is colorful matters and gossips, within new mix of words from Hindi and English. For this reason she becomes very popular in a short time.

Shobha De's works portray the culture of modernity and capitalism inhuman life where women are stronger than men. De's view is separate about high society because as citizen of Bombay like city she observes the life with special sites on female and their role in the out-world or in the family conditions. They are leading their life with touch

of capitalism which can offer them economical freedom and various cultures. By this way all the fictional worlds of Shobha De gives another new view for readers and as well as for literature. From sixties to recent times De has never stopped work in the literary field. Her books are based on high society and she is never concerned on old custom so Indian society.

Shobha De's works usually relates to Feminist theories. Where women raises against their right hand place in the social structure and they hate the system of patriarchy. De focused on these common views of humans especially under capitalistic life in India. Feminist theory includes issues of economic, and cultural it also relates to gender its connection to class, race, and sexuality.

In the later modern period the question of gender and its issues has become so alert and feminists fight least for quality at social levels as well as in employment, and feminist theory addressed to public sphere. De's novels stand for the feminist voice in India. De's different style of narrating with bunch of characters mix with the life of middle class family conditions. It is like awe both of human, both men and women.

De's series of novels contribute to the feminine voice that belongs to high culture but not secured for mother classes. The women are in search of their identity and success in life and there may be against male hegemony. Like the feminists their eagerness and struggle go beyond the culture of old customs. De's quest of social justice never gets any solution, instead her characters fully migrate from old to new like in the novel *Second Thought* the married woman hopes from her husband, but when it is not full filled she goes to another relation with another man.

In every novel in which she debates on the inner voice of the characters from the angles of society. Women live by surrendering themselves to the male dominating world, but there is no positive result out of it. This negativity stands the women at the edge of society. All women are subordinated to society or the system of patriarchy and De's women tried to come out of it.

Shobha De and her works really stand for modern feminism where there is no place for culture and customs. Simply they fly over the rigid society and create separate capitalist world according to their own wishes.

This type of struggle can be studied in the novel so Shobha De. For their selfishness they can cross and do anything so, which is wrong for them. De and her works are comparable to Jackie Collins. The western writer and a number of critics comment on this and have pleaded it good read. Because of her direct point on gender and apart from this she never introduced any new matter. It may be true that men and women are bound by only sexual love in especially in urban sector but not in all over the world or all over the Indian society.

Being the modern feminist writer her liberation on women is in totally wrong way of society. The women characters of De's face fully freely and out. De projections of capitalistic world produce way in negative shades. Her every character has a hollowness very commonly in all her fictions. They never stick to one or another matter they are always in search of freedom, identity, money, wealth, power, or name and fame.

For this reason De has considered as 'queen of controversy', in many leading newspapers and in the field of literature. Her works are like feminism's vamp, where women can use vivid tricks for success in the world of literature but rarely in realism.

De's novels are feminist to liberate woman hood, especially from social bounds and through her works she imitates this style of modern woman. They are strong in nature; the self determinate and they are very narrow minded fixed on few materialistic thing so humans the deep rooted culture offers them. And often these women characters fail in their life like marriage, friendship, and social relations.

In the world of modernity they search for and new culture as in attending parties, going for shopping, having extra relations, habits, education, etc are very common for the women of Shobha De. Another side, she discussed the, money minded husbands, restricted parents also aspects of modern capitalist society. To get married however women should live with social customs.

Shobha De reveals the world as of betraying men and the helplessness of women become as good weapon for all male characters. This cruel face of men is focused by De, instead she reveals everything by her writings. She discussed it directly for instance Mikki's husband in the novel *Sisters*. For the sake of her wealth and property he married her and even he hides the matter of his first marriage and about two children. Later he started to beat Mikki for having her property; she is saddened by this, but she never realizes that she also married a wealthy man. So, hence there are many things De opens in her writings by using unique technique De directly tells the fact of human life or the life of capitalism and the women's role in it.

The novels of Shobha De take the readers to the present world or late modern style which stands only on the basis of economic condition. In late capitalism even though women are neglected by its gender biases in all the way of their life, they struggle to reach the success in life. And often it is a failure because in for the women in modern capitalism. It may be a big challenge. But De's women characters are very broad they cross all limitations of society and lead strongly with power or money.

## **Objectives of the Research**

This thesis proposes to read Shobha De's novels within the frame work of feminist and Marxist critiques of capitalism in order to

1. To study the impact of late capitalist process on the lives of women.
2. To study their resistance and negotiation with these developments.

## **Limitations and Constraints**

1. The focus of the study is limited to late modernity and late capitalism stages of development and not the early stages.
2. In addition middle class and urban women's experience is explored as not lower economic and working class urban or rural women.

These limitations are owing to the narrow but intense canvas of the author chosen for study.

## **Hypotheses**

1. De's novels depict the live so on middle class urban women in the late capitalist milieu such as urbanism, consumerism, professionalism, and domestic isolation.
2. They also depict the strained sexual relation between spouses and the low socio- economic status of these women who are even more dependent on, husband, marriage and erotic love.
3. In this some context the novels narrativize the extreme sexual and material pursuits of the women. These narratives have been problematically interpreted, either as immoral and dehumanize or as indicating the extreme liberation and success of women in a realistic manner.

4. This thesis argues that it is inadequate to read De's novels at a realistic level. Rather it is proposed that her stories provide allegories of late capitalism and that the sexual-material struggles of her female protagonists symbolize the capitalist processes viz., as follows;
- 5.(a) The capitalist processes require that the various domains of human activities to be kept separate and distinctive, for instance capital from labor; and both from consumptive, and domestic; production from their productive soon. This gives rise to conditions of differences and hierarchies of roles and functions. The isolation of the domestic and women's gender roles is one such result.
- (b) Secondly, capitalist processes involve the loss of social, and its substitutions by the cultural. That is the mass media dominated the cultural in late capitalist society.

The loss of the social makes the entry of women into capital domain as dehumanized and criminal, whereas the culturification leads to the allegations of immorality.

In the context women who want to enter the professional or capital domain are seen as disruptive and leading to the collapse of capitalist value system. Shobha De's novels precisely depict this phenomenon.

Thus De's novels trace the capitalist processes via her female characters rather than present their depravity or liberation.

### **Modernity and Feminism in India**

After independence in India the fast growth of industrial developments and social movements has created a new society. Its structure usually based on economical improvements as well as questions of gender inequality, this becomes common issue

even in literary fields. Women try to project they are able and equal to the men. A number of writings and inventions on this base are introduced with vivid ways to society. In the social background of India the human migration from rural to city which creates new culture or it implies style of capitalism. Capitalism introduced a new culture which can be considered as modernity where there is no hide and seeks.

The American feminists like Betty Friedan, Mary Ann Douglas notably debate about the modernity for human life. Especially their writing stands for femininity and they picture women capable for anything. Hence capitalism offers the new ways to society where women are highlighted. In the Indian levels of capitalism also a number of variations took place.

During the Nineteenth century the awareness of gender come from Enlightenment and a number of revolutionary activities took place. At the literary level also women occupies the place of equality and inaugurate new culture called as modernism. Capitalism and modernity are two sides of society where the progress included, the new or modernity is very next step of success of human life. The literary works and revolutions are the good examples of this impact. In the context of Indian society also it has deep rooted and had big shadow on human life and in society. And by this capitalism and modernity invades all the new culture to modern society, the feminist author usually attempts to use this element as centre point of their debates or writings. The feminist authors directly discussed the issues of modernity and impact of capitalism on human life, and they project the reality of genders in society.

For instance Betty Friedan in her notable work *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963 and which is considered as sparkling work of second wave feminism. She states



the suffocation of modern female in family it may be as daughter or as house wife, in country America. These women are dedicated to the fixed work of household. She did her survey of these modern American women and their life in society. The women of modern who are well educated even they are struck in the hands of modern culture. Betty Friedan interviews with a number of American house wives who said that they are living in the frame of family such as husband, child, and grand- parents etc. Apart from these situations they cannot even think about their own life. They serve the family and their dedication only for it, but as the feminist Betty tries to focus those women who are living in this frame she comments on this situation. Like Betty Friedan there are so many authors who deal with feminine subjects in their works with special reference to modernity and capitalism.

According to her vision these poor working conditions and inequality in wages and other material rewards in a development in capitalism. These developments have impacted on the economic well being of women as a class, especially in third world countries like Africa etc. For instance in Africa in the times before modern day capitalism, women enjoyed economic status because they had accused to certain types of technologies and goods; that is modes of production. Capitalism given to them of these polymers teemed them into wage workers and depends without technological access. This may be covers in the case of rural India where the invasion of technology turned women into migrant coolies and domestic servants in urban areas. In her various writings Ester stands on the side of feminism. She notes that during sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the poor condition of women and gender in social and economic levels under the threat. This becomes clear by the less wage for women that was legislated during these times.

Like other feminists also in the Indian context Shobha De too stands for modernity and capitalism. Because her every work debates on the style of modernity in capitalist society like Bombay. The human life has considerable basis of capitalism and economic condition De wants to reveal the reality which is behind of modernity and capitalism. Especially De focused on women subject capitalism where all types of cultures are included. Women more associated with their passionate or sentimental world and enter capitalism in the high cities of Indian society.

It is sure that the dominance of male to female had never changed, but Shobha De like authors try to project the women as able as men. In every aspects of social life she offers full freedom for her women characters. Modernity is the next step of capitalism. In the urban areas of Indian society, humans to reach success take any way they can and live on the top of society.

And women also achieve it. De uses these skills of human relations and culture, living styles, truly for her writings among all the Indian feminists of old, modern or contemporary. Shobha De and her works are unique. Like other women writers De pleads that women are equal to men in all aspects. She gives full power to women and their characterization in every novel. There are so many Indian and western feminists who portrayed women and give equality in their positions in the society. For instance, Simone De Beauvoir in the *Second Sex*, the fields of life; social, economical, historical, judicial etc are for women and not only for men. She strongly argues that in her works. Feminist theory first emerged in 1894 in the western society and western feminists started their voice against the systems.

Many of the female writers were involved to improving it and taken to vast development of feminism. The same thing happens in postcolonial India also, the women arise as unity and fight against patriarchy. They try to bring good position for women in society even by literary means. It is sure that every feminist approach brings new things to the world. The way of all feminists and their theory reaches finally only one goal that was female equality with males. The Indian literatures, mainly women literatures found vividness and acts for women. Whether it is the impact of western or the feminist theories women are rebellious against the oppressions of modern culture. The Indian feminist situation becomes part of a new world. Even in many critical conditions women or the feminists never stop or quite up.

Authors like Rajeshwari Sundar Rajan who too debates on the feminine issues and she is one of contemporary writers in Indian context *The Scandal of the State: Women, Law, and Citizenship in Postcolonial India. Real and Imagined Women: Gender Culture and Post colonialism*, some of are her books that look at women's roles in the postcolonial era. These are declares to readers and to society how gender and its imbalance in society.

In one of the notable books *Real and Imagined Women: Gender, Culture, and Post Colonialism* published in 1993. In the introduction itself the author criticized the attempts of contemporary Indian feminist theories, on the basis of ideology for trying back once tradition and modernity and for striving for a hybrid culture. It seems to be imaginary tradition position of women and not in the real sense. She attributes this type of motivation to the mass media and the hyper real world of consumer culture dominated by business and advertisement.

Further Sunder Rajan says about the subaltern female and dominance of male female as one of major issues, even to this day the female and their roles of female in society were relative and imagined but not the reality, she states about subaltern voice, including old customs. Most of postcolonial feminists debate on the modern theories for feminists like capitalism, modernity, consumerism, gender equality, etc. These authors are most of the time similar in their writing, but Shobha De again stands to her different style of modern feminisms. Because her bold writings open a new face of modernity, especially in high cities like Bombay. Where women are as object of sex with the common view following the wealth and its competitions, the writings of De should come under the same shadow of modern feminist theory.

From the old feminist writers to the new modern feminist writer we find the same feminist stand point that women are the real hero of their life. This is a common element we can find in every feminist theory and work of literature. The feminist were approaching their identity through the literature and revolutionary acts since Nineteenth century up-to the new modern era of twentieth century. Every step of the feminist writers takes women to a common field. They open the way for them, it may be a society or equalize the genders. The various works of different authors explore the newness for feminine identity in society, and it was most realistic to females and their issues. It may be old issues, or it may be new issues, it is about gender equality, the problems are the same. The literary works conclude with various negotiable things especially for women and society.

In Indian English writing women hold the fixed place of feminism, even in the contemporary style of writing or older includes all feminist theories in one or another

angles may be. By the literary works women approached new heights of female position from the family up to the society, and it was like current events for feminist theories. According to many women writers they protest that they are not subalterns but they are able human beings. From the perspective of historical background in Indian English literature it was a fact in Indian society that women are treated like subaltern. The writers reveal some of facts that feminist state in society.

Works of feminist writers directly link with all stages of feminist theory. Also referring western feminism to Indian feminism there are most similarities can be found. The literary works considered as works of feminism every feminist deals with various subjects of women and their identity in society. It seems to readers or society women were building their own character according to their wishes. They never want any bounds on their life from men or society. Every literary work states this was their ideology. And it was appreciable because there is no question of discrimination of male and female: apart from some biological variants the male and female have their different qualities in life. The writers are not judging any qualities but they realize to readers that they are stronger than men: this is the most common view studied from various women writers.

Feminist theory was a concept first coined in western countries. Due to women rights and empowerment decades ago the writers found the way to explore their idea for society or the world through their works. Especially feminist writers created a new world for the female. It was considered as third world literature, their works focus on purely feminine life in the society and its different stages. It is a fact that no female can treat as equal to male: there are many reasons like biological, economical etc. The women's condition is one of suppression all the time.

Women considered as suppressed class or the third world. The dilemma of male and female inequality was not completely vanished. It still rules on women, it may be in rural and even in educated urban levels of Indian society. In the Indian context of feminist theory, it has elements which is impact of western feminism, late modern culture; capitalistic view etc. These are roots of feminist theory. By this sub root of society women try to reach the way of success. The Indian writers become the real voice of the oppressed class people. A number of feminist writers provide their contributions to feminism.

From a historical point of view women were separated by the gender bias and suffering in hands of male culture, or system of patriarchy. The various literary authors try to change this view of people. It is not sure that still the society does accept feminist theories at its different levels of life, because the contemporary writers address issues of women in the urbanized world. Like Shobha De and others rise voices which hides in this fast moving society. There is not any liberation received forcefully. Through the different stages of feminist theories women lead the various society and the under shadow of capitalism.

Every feminist writer automatically comes under the influence of feminist theory; it may be a question of gender, modernity, culture etc. The opinion of some feminists live as a blank because they discuss but no solutions may be given for it like the works of Shobha De. The readers fall in a dilemma as to when things will change. Feminist theory seems to be only for debates not for action even in the modern world. The feminist writers open problems but no where it seems completed.

All type of feminist theory waves into the world of reality where women were totally condemned. Their hard work is to change the system but it was never changed

because of the view of people and society. In the urban sectors women as daughter, wife, and mother come across in the different stages of life and different problems which is fixed for all the women. That they can't escape from these critical situations. Hard time for the female are gone but even the position has not completely changed.

Feminist theory is variously defined by various literary authors: as for example it is 'study of female and issues', according to, Bell Hooks: *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* – Feminism is a struggle to eradicate and end the ideology of domination that permeates. So, feminist theory is most common for all and in all contexts Indian feminist too are included.

All the theories of feminism are related to issues of gender struggle and for individuality. Every author and feminist view verifies it very deeply. Feminist theory tries to give awareness in the society and the facts of dark side of society. The condemning of gender was endless. It is a decades ago problem of living in normal society. In India a spirit of feminism up lifted in society by revolutionary acts and in literature. All women rises the voice against dominancy of male, patriarchy, marriage, illiteracy, less wages, or the power of economy and their individual talents etc. Issues of female identity had slowly become strong. By the literary developments writers become the voice of suppressed people of society. From pre-independent to late modern society the feminist are strongly debating about the question of gender and their position in society.

The contemporary writers in Indian English have their view on theory of modernity and feminism; it is one of the strong basis of feminine for the advancement in social spheres. These authors open the new path for urbanity and vivid media. Society and the people adopt it in their common life where its sub roots are increasing. Indian

feminism advanced three major waves. First wave up to (1948) second wave (1960-1990) and the third wave even called as post modern feminism 1990's onwards. In all the different stages of Indian feminism Indian feminist they plead their rights against male society.

Nancy Cott makes a distinction between modern feminism and its antecedents, particularly the struggle for suffrage in the United States. Elaine Showalter describes the developments of feminist theory as having a number of phases. The last she calls feminist critique, Gyno critique, where women is producer of textual meaning. The feminist critics in various languages may be national or regional they examine feminism vividly.

In literary theory feminists dedicate to evaluate their positions in the social structure and dominant characters, from Virginia Woolf, Margret Fuller to contemporary feminist writers who considered as third wave authors. Hence the different stages of feminist theory may be observed in the various writers in the world-wide context. The Indian writers too developed the female subjectivity in literary works and in social structures. Bell Hooks, who discussed feminism and some theories under the title "*Sexism*", where she argues: Feminism, as liberation struggle, must exist apart from and as part of larger struggle to eradicate domination in all its form. It is sure that they can do well for society. As Mary Wollstonecraft, the 19th century feminist discussed that well educated women are like an ornament for society at least for their companions traded under marriage. Further she argued for fundamental rights of women.

As the various views of feminisms and theory declares that the real struggle of females in society and their positions, the literary authors in context of western or the Indian attempt the issues and gives voice for suppressed class of people. The authors



provide well the platform for feminism and their theories in their books. They criticize the view on the women it means they try to develop the women roles in society as well as in situation of families.

In all the stages of society women hold their roles by taking support of feminist theories, the constant view on women may never change but still they survive like burden to society or the family. It is a fact that women are separate, even they have some qualities to prove themselves as able and in one or other way they pleaded it in history and in present situations. From domination women have crossed the limitations, and found the way of equality or success in their life. Because the view of women never changes from human life, there are many instances that stand for it in literature and in history.

The feminist writers use this as their weapon for portraying reality of society and women development in their works. The process of feminism drew the women to the world of brightness or center of society. Feminists are changing society and its vision on gender, finally they become successful and climb on every field of society. Even though in the Indian society women never come to the time lights of social media, most of them hide behind four walls.

The impact of feminist theory on literature was vast in range because many authors create awareness to women and their responses in the society. Position of women has entirely changed in the new contemporary world. Women lead society at all stages and have become successful in life. Even in the suppressed condition women are suffering in rebellion. The Literary world spreads the new vision to the people. For this same reason feminist writers argued by their writings like Arundhati Roy, Shashi

Deshpande, Kamala Das and Kamala Markandeya, etc women writers rise voice against a suppressed class. Their argument is about women identity and women rights in society.

Through the literary alertness in the human they built new platform for women where they feel themselves as well equal to others. Society and in the world of capitalism women are superior and liberated so the new modern feminist Shobha De too belongs to it. The feminist works are the mirror of women issues this was considerable even from ancient times of history. Even male writers and critics have condemned it.

In analyzing modern culture the claim of feminists and their approaches are very high. Some of them dedicated their work to the role of domestic life of women like marriage, kitchen, child care, and as housewife in the modern world. These are topics of feminist theory. Apart from these ground level of thinking women attempted to reach all angles of society. The feminist writers show concern on these issues and they plead that they are stronger than that type of women. A number of female characters open the secrets of society, and the inter relations of humans which is wrapped in social bound. The women writings and their creativeness are unique because it is only their world. In these situation women pleads their inner world of passion and desires.

In the post colonial world where human beings are searching for unique culture in society, then feminist theory also approach its literary works. From the social reformer to feminist writers every one struggled through the critical conditions of the female. As result of capitalism in society new cultures are introduced and feminists are very close to that field. In the world of feminists concerning on women condition the question is why it has its own limits. But still there is no answer for such doubt. Feminist theory debates on this type of basic essential for women in a dominating society. Some time for women it is impossible thing to come out of it especially in Indian context.

Because the feminist and their theories reveal the bitterness of the present society or the world where women even live as objects in the concept of culture or as a gender women were subjugated and it is sure that no woman is ready to accept that they are de merited by this conflict of gender in society or that in the name of culture it has no end. In all the areas of modern consumer culture women are fixed as brand or object. They need their own reality but it hides in the multi culture. Every character created by authors indicates the reality in outer- world. In the various stages of feminist theory women seek the origin of human life, where it begins with women itself. In the modern eras where women are portrayed as self- able to do all things and their suffocation was hidden it never comes to the public. But Shobha De like writers reaches every corner of society and brought women identity. The areas of Indian urban include and open all new way for women.

### **Critique of Capitalism and Feminist Responses**

Nineteenth century onwards the growth of economic sphere introduced industrialization. A number of social thinkers argue for gender, life of bourgeois. Issues of feminine etc social problems become alert to the progress of society, especially in economic condition that reflects capitalism. In the present late modern era of capitalism which is common to all modern society and as well as for literary field. Especially in the context of feminism in modern and late post-modern society it has its wide notion where the social reformers and authors debate on issues related to women.

Authors even as Ann Douglas, Jurgen Habermas, Jean Baudrillard, Daniel Bell, Colin Campbell, Betty Friedan, Ernest Mandel, Ester Boserup, Jean Bethke Elstain etc. persons in western context give their vivid ideas on modernity and post-modernity,

culture and capitalism, the life of women of bourgeois level. This can be seen in the early part of Nineteenth century and onwards the awareness of people on economic condition becomes so important. When the society introduced the industries to field of work, then the matter of wages and gender inequality slowly develops its position. In the following section and present some of the more influential thinkers on capitalism, modernity and their impact on women and other subaltern groups are reviewed.

One of the finest critiques of accumulative capitalistic economic mode and its impact on women's role in society was given by Marx and Engels in their *The Origin of Family and Rise of Private Property*. They directly link the gendered division of labor and the migration of women to the domestic sphere of family and household directly to the rise of accumulative capital in the earliest cultures and their transformation economically. With the accumulation of wealth and rise of private property, women who had equal role in earliest culture become house bound and gender stereotyped. They lose their right to economy and ownership of capital. They become as dependents in their sexually dominated roles as mothers and wives.

We also know of Marx's own critique of capitalism in his *Das Capital*. Marx viewed that an economic mode of production produced its own socio-cultural and situational structures, what is known as the economic base and socio-cultural superstructure model. The function of the superstructure is to reproduce and maintain the social relations of productions, which is absolutely necessary for the perpetuation of that particular mode of production. Thus Marx perceived that any form of economic organization will always produce its own social-cultural milieu suitable to its smooth functioning. Thus we can see that social-cultural institutions of capitalism such as family and household are at its service and the gendered roles of the sexes also.

In the contemporary times, Ernest Mandel a German thinker and of Marxist bent provided a most comprehensive critique of capitalism as it has advanced from the day of Marx and Engels. Ernest Mandel in his book *Late Capitalism* (1968) characterizes contemporary period as the late capitalist phase. This phase starting post world war the capitalist economy is governed by the “ideology of technical rationality (p 504)”. This is the outcome of a massive entry of technology in the capitalist process.

As per this ideology all aspects of the capitalist system including unequal social conditions and relations produced by it, are explained away by functionalist, technical manner. This rationalizing process regulates any “value system” outside its functionality as meaningless. It includes compulsive striving for success, and acceptance of “inhuman” world order as inevitability of human existence.

Further, since as capitalism advanced the masses have acquired higher skills and culture in this context the ideology of Late capitalism promotes “experts” knowledge combined with rejection of culture and belief in human perfectibility in order to suppress and keep the rising masses in their subordinate role. Cultural and civilization pessimism and belief in the evil and aggressive nature of human is therefore marking feature of Late Capitalist ideology or belief system and a method of keeping the masses in subordinate place.

Another important observation that Mandel makes in his book which has impacted on feminist thinking on women’s economic role and status, is his comment on the separation of human activities into separate social and private spheres. Mandel explains that this separation is the direct outcome of the principle that all capitalist economy is governed by the rule of “free relation of exchange”, that is in capitalism the

economy is conducted by individuals under conditions of free choice and pure self-interest, without state interference. He calls this as “unique generalization of commodity production, private property and competition of all against all (p 479)”. But he says that this claim is a false one and that it hides the alienation of the proletariat from the means of production and unequal nature of their participation (labor and market) vis-à-vis capital.

Mandel argues that this is not reality that bourgeois State does not control the private sphere, but rather it controls it by laying “the general conditions of production (p 476)” which is at the outset in favor of the capital/capitalists rather than labor. The state is more concerned to control the masses and their political, social mobilization against capitalism.

Feminists like Jean Bethke Elstain have been influenced by Mandel’s discussion of the public/private division and the role of the state control in it. Since in the modern capitalist society woman’s role is predominantly in the private sphere, Mandel’s understandings of the public/ private can throw the light on women’s role also. First of all, is the explanation that the privatization of women’s labors and role is the natural outcome of their biology and gender difference from man and as a matter of free choice among individual woman. In view of Mandel, we can see that this natural theory is an incorrect explanation, as women are comparable to the proletariat masses whose condition of participation in capitalism is governed by state apparatuses rather than free exchange and governed by the laws of capitalism itself. Their alienation from capital is even more complete than the proletariat because they participate in the reproductive sector, which is way in reproducing the social conditions of capitalism. Their role

remains totally ineffective to participate in the productive sphere, even as labors. Because in the capitalist system reproductive labor cannot be converted to value, while labor of proletariat can be.

Jurgen Habermas is one of German philosopher and sociologist. His notable work on *Communicative Action, Rationality and the Public Sphere* here he discussed about the modernity including mass media and print media which turn into public sphere or consumer culture he tries to give the real growth of modernity in western countries like Europe, France etc. As social thinker he debates about post-modern society and its developments. His analyses on how advanced capitalism emerges in society. In his essay '*Modernity versus Post-modernity* (1981)' he states about the failure of twentieth century modernity. It gives social enlightenment.

He defined the different spheres of society by introducing labels such as public sphere, social sphere, and political sphere where the issues are quite different and even ways of communication too are different. Further he gives the touch of political for all public sphere. Hence the public sphere has its wide notion it may be public education, public opinion, public health, etc which are very connected with the notion of private also. The life of bourgeois is much associated with public sphere where they want to debate about their social or individual problems.

Jurgen Habermas who is primarily known for his critique of modern culture from the concept of communitarian ethics, or notion of the perfect speech community, (where communication in the public sphere was immediate and based on realistic social relationships); He described modern culture as basically formed by a break up of a perfect speech community and the development of an antithetical process of anonymous

pseudo communicative society, dominated by the mass media and a mass political system. Capitalism, a mode of production that rests on demographic massification and the pseudo rationality of standardization and classificatory system is the primary force in this development.

In capital driven culture social problems and their solutions are formulated on: pseudo level and may be totally not realistic in relation to lived realities of people. The mass media's like TV, and News papers do not actually make for a speech community as they themselves are structured by technology and capital. The mass media turn all public issues into show biz and pseudo communicative.

Further in his essay on modernity he characterizes modernity which is the project of Enlightenment as governed by primarily a rationalizing force, which seeks to separate the different spheres of human activity. But unfortunately this rationalizing drive is incomplete and subsequently the project of modernity remained an incomplete one. He claims further that this has lead to violence and terrorism by various spheres running into each other, for example the political which is aesthetized (cultural) and vice-versa.

Pace Denial Bell further he also claims that even though capitalism promotes economic liberalism resting on individualism etc, this same principle is not upheld in the social, cultural spheres where there is need to promote conservative ideology for the reproduction and completion of capitalist process of consumption and reproduction of economic relations. This appears as a contradiction in the life of the people, especially women and the consumers, whose participation may be limited to these spheres owing to the contingencies of their gender roles. Capitalism stands on the instrumental rationality of economy and Habermas called it as colonization of the world.



Another socialist and reformer in America named Daniel Bell, who too attempts the theory of capitalism and modernity in the present society. Bell's famous work on capitalism is *The Cultural Contradiction of Capitalism* where he discusses the value of culture which is important to modern society. This society gives political and more social liberty for human life. It is true that modern society is basically found as field of technology and economy these are very close to industrial developments.

Daniel Bell states about the society where capitalism created a new peculiar way for art and culture. It is offering individual identity for human. By this social structure also changed on base of economy, devoid of age, sex, occupation, rural and urban locations. Bell gives style of people in upper class and in rural areas and its differences.

Daniel Bell's *The Cultural Contradiction* is a collection of six essays each essay gives different view on social developments from various fields and various angles. The theory of culture implies on society and its progress. It is clear that in modern society technology includes all things. After industrial revolution vastly improved technology has become strong and it provides a new or modern style of economic condition for people especially bourgeois. In this series of essays Bell discussed about 'examining about culture especially idea on modernity, and the problem of managing such complex polity as the United States when social values are restrained. As he views on modern society contradiction come to exist in contemporary society. The dissolution between culture and economy comes under contradiction of capitalism.

Bell argues about present day social scientists and thinkers of society as unified system which is organized around a single major principle. A principle which seeks to reproduces itself through dominant institutions in society. Bell analyzes better society in

combine of three distinct realms, the social structure, the principal of economy, the polity and culture. Bell's strong argument is that society wholly depends on post- modern and history has limited it by change in techno-economic order. Political order has become time control within society of capitalist and culture.

He says culture is realm which is ruled by principle of capitalist self realization. The disjunction of these three realms and principles had then produced tension and conflict in capitalist society. In this collection of six essays Bell makes coherent statement about present interrelated economic and culture related elements in capitalistic society as well as execution of cultural modernism. In this post-modern society we are witnessing the end of bourgeois idea which is molded in our culture of country. As well as Bell works gives brief perspective on today what we live in post-modern society. Which is witness to end of creative impulse and become power of modernism.

The growth of economic capitalism in urban sectors offers new role for women like variety of jobs and freer sexual contacts. But even while capitalism offers completely liberal role for these women in the public sphere of economy, in the private sphere of consumption and reproduction the same capitalist economy enforced contradictory values which are conservative in affect. The liberalism which stands on capitalism and it support, affected all fields of individual humans and produces contradiction and conflicts. Bell informs about role of women as well as impact of modern culture. The collection of essays gives a real discussion on present society which implication for capitalism and modern culture. Bell gives good instance of capitalist society like the growth of industrial and technological both root of modern culture and society.

In this particular essays *Cultural Contradiction* Bell focus on twentieth century how it has involved capitalism which is become contradiction between cultural sphere of consumer. This consumer and cultural sphere gives importance about self demand and self liberty by economics. Bell divide it three realms like modern society into the cultural, economic and political sphere. Modernity in his view on post-modern society is based on new culture which creates the contradiction. Especially he refers nineteenth and twentieth century where vast developments of economic, industrial has provide new vision for people. Again he points to the life bourgeois how it completely changed by the new cultural sphere and he considers this culture as contradiction. It is right modernity gives new change to economy as well as for society. Later it becomes dominate in social structure. Bell refers this change of culture and economic status to protestant religion and social behavior.

People have their liberty in this world of capitalism. By the techno changes in society life style also get variously differ from old or tradition to modern culture. He discuss about what distinguishes lower class and upper class people and their life style in capitalist society. There are we can see the upper class people children are enjoying present days but the lower class people giving training to their children about future or labor. The diversity of culture is created in a new way between the classes as well as in the life of bourgeois. Modernism is the real response of social change in the nineteenth and twentieth century.

For all these social developments and theories Bell refers various critics and social theories like Max Webber, Michel Foucault, etc who argued in their theory about class system and clash of cultures in society. Bell too includes their ideas on modernity or

capitalist culture and here summaries the theories of capitalism and culture in modern society. Finally we can realize Bell essays are like watershed of modern day capitalism.

According to Betty Friedan in her notable work *Feminine Mystique* (1963) she discussed about issues of women in the domestic levels. Betty is founder of National organization for Women and leader of the women's movement in 1963 U.S.A. Her argument about women's life as surrounded by motherhood, and house wife role she states women are acceptable for jobs which are very limited, like domestic work and child care etc. Betty argues about the equal position for women on gender bias and she labels this situation as a problem that has no name.

Betty said about women role and their awareness actually the males are competitors but they are fellow victims and she discussed for that women if they are do not become aware they only enjoy women hood or femininity; it is like a known disease in America. Her strong argument centered on why women dedicate to domestic life it is like women are handicapped by her sex in society.

In the chapter "*Sexual Sell*" in this book *The Feminine Mystique*. Friedan looks at women as consumers and their relation to capitalist mode of production and circulation of goods which is basically resting on process of consumption. It inevitably promotes and establishes gender stereotype and hierarchies of sexual role. In capitalist society women at the outset are configured in their feminine or womanly role in the domestic sphere as also in the public sphere in order for to the capitalist process to be successful.

So women who want to come out of the conventional gender roles are forced with a systematic hurdle and their fight is not a simple one, limited to the question of individual freedom. This also explained why women who try to come out to the public

sphere are turned into icons of feminine sexuality etc and seldom make it to the executive levels on par with man.

Mary Douglas another American thinker she debates on *The World of Goods; Towards an Anthropology of Consumption* (1978) in this work she discussed about, the human with context to consumer activities and behavior in social class, social environments. In her book *The Feminization of America* (1998) traces the impact of capitalism by advanced industrialization process on American society from late 19th century onwards. In her analysis advancing capitalized industrialization took over many of the professions and economic enterprise sectors which were so far dominated by women.

For instance in the USA, until the late 19th century dairy farming, poultry, cloth making, tailoring and many other professions were in the hands of women who ran them for self supporting their households. By the end of 19th century they had lost these economic means to industrialization and big capital which freed them from such labor. No doubt capitalism produced a growing class of middle class women who began to have a lot of leisure time, and nothing worthwhile to do even as they were cooped up in their houses.

According to her, these women make as a large section of consumers for popular culture such as romantic novels etc. having lost their professional influence they are reduced to the “feminine” sphere of the homely sentiment and while away their lives reading the of romance and power found in these novels.

Looking at Shobha De’s novels it is possible to say that, perhaps they are an index to a similar situation in the Indian context. De’s novels are allegories of capitalist power which the middle class women devoid of a public role would want to fantasy about.

Further, Ann Douglas also claims that, these processes of capitalism have not just impacted on women's role, but also on the men. Men who earlier had independent means of economy are transformed into dependent on the industries and big business for employment. This has created a large class of men who live on state support since big businesses tend to establish monopoly. This process she calls as "feminization of America" itself. The processes of capitalism are such that it produces large disparities turning the people to a mass laboring force which is dependent on the capitalism for its livelihood.

Another western writer Ester Boserup notable work *Role in Economic Development* first published in 1970. Where she focused the struggle of women in the improvements of economic levels she refers to U.S. and African society. Where women struggle as labor but are not considered equal to male labor, her basic arguments are about the imbalance of economic conditions in capitalism where women and child labors are neglected in working place due to gender bias.

She mainly starts with the field of agriculture where women works equal to men but not equal pay. Including agricultural work women contribution to the economy and immensely yet there is a division of gender labor in working places from fields to industries. She tries to gender-labor system by her theory or graphical analysis. In the context of patriarchy where all the goods are divided and women refer to the domestic labor and wage-less labor within the frame of work place.

According to her these poor working conditions and inequality in wages and other material rewards is a development in capitalism. These developments have impacted on the economic well being of women as a class, especially in their world countries like

Africa, etc. For instance in Africa in the times before modern day capitalism, women enjoyed economic status because they had access to certain types of technologies and tools; that is modes of production. Capitalism divested them of these technologies and turned them into wage workers and depends without technological access. This is true of Indian woman where the invasion of technology teemed women into migrant coolies and domestic servants in urban area.

Jean Baudrillard the social thinker and philosopher in his work *The Consumer Society Myths and Structures* (1970), he discusses value system in modernity and consumer society, main root for capitalism. He refers to the ideas of Karl Marx's capitalist society. Jean studied the theory of values in these parts and gives his view on consumer value and production. The first part of this book deals with the formal liturgy of object; in second part of book he directly talk about the theory of consumption well develops the life of bourgeois. In the post-modern society which is in the shadow of this consumer culture which made up the world of capitalism had changed the value of things and production. Consumer society is basically stands on mechanism of exchange of goods and values rather the growth of production. "Value" in capitalist culture does not stem from the nature of goods, but by their exchange. That is to say a bad item might be valuable because it can be exchanged.

In the third part s h e discussed about mass media, sex and leisure: this part of book reveals the role of mass media in consumer society. The vast change in culture gives individual identity to men and women and it takes into social position. Mass media helps to compose the value of exchange by producing hyper real word.

He pictures well the truth and falsehood so mass media in society and its high position. The mass media objectifies the body of the consumers, especially here he refers about women body which considered as object of advertisements and consumer products (p. 129). The mass media is like a recycling culture according to Jean (p. 100). He explains the value of culture in consumer world.

Jean Baudrillard's *The Consumer Society Myths and Structures* is best instance of consumer and capitalist society. In the post-modern eras the new invasive consumer culture becomes stronger than older culture. It may innovate on social structure and in the field of industries and technology.

By studying a vast developments in late Capitalism tried to give a wide space for woman and their role in economic sphere. The critiques of capitalism and their theories can give the good justification for woman race. In worldwide context feminists and some other writers focus on this economic issues of women and labor- hood. Than it includes in the feministic waves and considered as equal right and equal wages in working fields.

### **Consumerism and Culture of Capitalism**

In the previous section we reviewed some major theories of how capitalism shapes the culture and value systems (ideologies) of a society. In the present section we look at specifically consumerism as a shaping force of that society. It is wrong to think of social- cultural spheres as separate from capital and labour. Marx himself gave us his base- superstructure model (reviewed in previous section) in which he viewed the social-cultural as an outcome of the mode of production; the forms at the service of maintaining and reproducing the latter.



The capitalist processes are never completed merely within the spheres of money capital or productive labour; goods and values have to circulate in order to accumulate value. There the sphere of consumption and its allied areas are part of capitalism. Marx wrote of how capitalism produced the typically hierarchical social relations of production.

That is to say capitalism produced a hierarchical society based on one's role in the mode of production. This hierarchical relation is aspect of economic sphere of business as well as of those sphere which fall outside it such as family, community etc. So that in capitalism there is no social outside the hierarchy ethic of capitalism. A new development in the contemporary times is in the expansive growth of consumptive sphere which today engulfs just about everything.

According to Marxist thinkers like Pierre Bourdieu their development of the consumptive has replaced the social with the cultural and overwrites the capitalist social hierarchal relations that Marx wrote with cultural hierarchies. This cultural is the consumptive cultural, which is inscribed with hierarchies of consumptive rituals. The Marxian social hierarchies therefore have become tied up with consumptive cultural hierarchies, in the sense that some type of consumption are not readily available to those whose participation fall at the bottom of capitalist system or for those who fall totally outside it, for example wives at home, children, older persons etc.

There are number of studies of the consumptive culture of capitalism in which the culture of capitalism become synonymous with modes of consumption. Collins Campbell's *Understanding Traditional and Modern Patterns of Consumption in Eighteen Century England* and another book titled *The Romantic Ethic and the Spirit of Modern*

*Consumerism* (Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1987) coined the term “*Conspicuous Consumption*” to talk about what was happening to the social and cultural in capitalism. In capitalism, goods are not consumed for their functional value. Since capitalism thrives on excess production, there is always more goods than is needed.

Buyers therefore end up purchasing goods that may not be consumed or give any sense of well being. Jean Baudrillard in recent times has added to this and said that in *Late Capitalism* symbolic value replaces the use value of goods. By symbolic value he means, cultural meanings, identities and styles attached to the goods. Consumers buy the goods for these symbolic margins which become important to their position and identity in capitalist culture. Feminists like Ann Douglas, Betty Friedan, Rachel Bowlby, Rosemary Pringle have argued that capitalism inherently gendered. The sphere of production is gendered as masculine and the consumptive is feminized. There is also a hierarchy of gender development between these two in which the productive masculine sphere is where the real value capital is produced and the feminine where it is expanded and lost.

The gendered hierarchical ideological structure ends to reproduce the domination of men and masculinity over women and femininity. Given their species biological role women are therefore cornered in this gender sector which decreases their chances in masculinity dominated sphere of capital. Moreover the consumer culture of capitalism tends to reproduce the symbolic system, in which women are dominating configured as consumers.

Betty Friedan’s essay “*The Sexual Sell*” (from her book *The Feminine Mystique*) gives the earliest and most straight forward analysis of this situation. She shows how

marketing strategies reproduce gender identity for women as consumer within the domestic setting as care givers. She argues that the capitalists want to maintain the feminine sphere as consumptive sphere in order to secure the circulation of value and goods.

Mary Ann Douglas in her book titled *The World of Goods* furthers Friedan argument and shows how contemporary households and familial social relations are built around “rituals of consumption”, where meanings of human relationships are given by the consumptive rituals. There is no meaning in human relation without the consumptive ritual.

## **Conclusion**

In this chapter we have reviewed major critiques of contemporary capitalism such as Ernest Mandel, Jean Bethke Elstain, Daniel Bell, Jurgen Habermas, Betty Friedan, Ann Douglas, Esther Boserup and Jean Baudrillard in order to understand its impact on women lives. Taking off from Marx and Engels, who first proposed that the origin of sexism and gender differentiation between man and woman is directly related to origin of accumulative economy and private property.

This produced the structure of the modern family, and the gendered role differentiation of male and female in it. This was also the source of women’s exclusion from economy and property ownership. The thinkers who are reviewed in this chapter are greatly influenced by this Marxist views and verify that in the late modern capitalist period women’s role in society is even more deeply gendered and expand the exclusions.

Consequently there is a struggle on the women's part to resist, this increasing narrowing of their sphere of influence.

This account of critique of capitalism is made with a view that it will help the people to understand the process of capitalism and their impact on the lives of human. There is no doubt that the novels of Shobha De narrativized these process and women struggle of resistance to come out of this exclusion. Lastly it is argued that it is inadequate to look at contemporary women oppression as a product of tradition. Capitalism and its processes play the dominant role in shaping the exclusion of women from social goods.

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## *Chapter - 2*

# *De's Novels as Allegories of Late Capitalism*

## **Chapter-2**

### **De's Novels as Allegories of Late Capitalism**

Shobha De started her career as journalist in film magazine; later she enters the field of modeling than she gets opportunity to establish a new world of glittering in her writings. According to De's women characters they are bold and brave for their life and decisions. No secret of modern culture is hidden by the author: it may be personal relations of family or friends so on. De opens all secrets of modern cultured life in cities like Bombay. The other side of society which is full of negativity is ruling the generations in its wealth, power, and money, such is the way of modern and urban life.

De's fictions introduced this type of modern life style, all her works depend on the same issue of modern culture. The impact of capitalistic style women has not left the ignorant of the dominancy in family and in society. Women are rebellious about life and women liberty, these women characters are involving in all the aspects of social life like business, modeling, higher education, various corporate jobs, and as modern house wife to maintain her personal as well as social life they are balancing both sides especially in the urban sectors.

Shobha De as citizen of capital city Bombay she views the society in another angle. Not as common women writers she especially focuses on women life and their relations in social web. Where women become as object of commercial life especially in the hands of males women struggle to reach the success in their life. Shobha De explores such critical situations of women in her novels where women finally attempts success according to their own wishes.

De's women characters are very different because they come from rich background, well educated and powerful often they tried to dominate their world forcefully. It was half success and many times they fail to reach the top of society. The social and family web became a big bound for them.

For this different negative shades are in her writings and often De is condemned by many critics, it is true that De focused only on sexual matters in Indian society. Apart from that there are many current issues to discuss in only novel but she never did it, anywhere in her writings. The works of Shobha De were full of gender issues and vulgarity in relations between friends and family members. De uses them as sex taboo of society, in Bombay like glittering world women silently face every danger it may be harassment or in the family or out-side they are kept invisible. But De observes these women who are suppressed and are helpless. In the novels of Shobha De women characters are portrayed as real hero of their life and decisions. Because they are independent while living in a city like Bombay, the generations totally depend on commercial style of living.

### **Women and Dimensions of Capitalism Culture as explained in De's Novels**

The society where there is mixture of all cultures it is difficult to define reality or gender. In the late modern period the life of people had vastly changed and the fast growth of culture was offering for women wide spaces where they are supreme. De's works mirror the modern culture and life of the urban. She debates in the shadow of modern feminism and its illegality of women who misuse their liberty, found in modern culture and feminism. Women were not satisfied about their life they were trying to found a new world where they can live according to their own wishes.

Shobha De's women characters do the same in each of her novels instead of following the old they search for own creation and identity in the modern society. For those women the systems of society were big foolishness and they cross it without any hesitation for instance marriage, divorce, crime, illicit relation, post marriage relation, lesbianism, patriarchy, inequality between men and women etc. Women in modern society live with competition where they face a number of problems.

They are settled in the urbanized world and search their success of life. At the end of these fictions we can realize that women are rebel against the system and suffer as subaltern. These type of women introduced by De through her fictions. The feminine sensibility is very different to male authorship the women writers are concerned with agency and self will. They do not surrender to traditions and male domination, instead they create new and bold life against the system. By the influence of modern feminism on common society women can be easily attracted towards it and goals.

The various ups and downs in life make women to claim on top of society and take a rebellious stand especially in literary works. In the world of glamour and glitter they tried to find success and wealth, this is a recurrent motif among De's characters that brings to high city like Bombay. De's imagined characters too fall in the passion of the physical attractions it may be even deviant sexual desire these women's lives belong to the shabby world of the city and it is covered by glitter world of films.

Women are haunted by such events in life. Shobha De introduced every type: film stars, bourgeois people, fashion models, modern house wives, business women, friends, and De interact with family relations too like sister, husband and wife, mother-in-law, parental etc are faces of reality. De's women characters are much stereotyped in their life of urban and they try to find marriage and family life in this modern context.



Which indicate the fast growth of modern culture and how people blindly follow it in their personal life. The women protest against the dominate system of the male, and patriarchy. In the web of all relations women cannot escape, because as one of them she hesitantly lives with the system. But De's women are very strong mentally, so they cross all limitations of society and live as they wish; they go to late night party, have boy friend, post marriage relations, illicit habits everything becomes common for De's women in the especial context of the urban.

By using modernity of life De opens another world of guilt: there is women as only object, they never have any type of limitations or stops on their life. For these women entering into the world of passion becomes an addiction. Often these women live away from orthodox society their style of living is separate and corporate all the time. According to De women's freedom reaches her peak of society. It is sure that De as feminist writer she too hates male society and the system of patriarchy. She wants to view the women on the top of success in society and she pleads it is possible to do that. Women can live according to their desires but they are facing trouble in each step of life. It may be as daughter, house wife, business women and in the world of media, where women feel discomforted by issues of gender.

Shobha De pictures them in her works and tries to portray women are too strong in their life that they can lead as single, and fight against the system. De writes within frame of family, but it is disputed because of the critical way of a husband and dominancy on women. In the novels she also reveals modern society as there is in cities, for the sake of wealth, money and power urban women are ready to reach to the very bottom of society.

By creating a number of characters De posed the interrelations of Indian society, they are fully independent especially economically. They manage both sides like domestic and also modern style. Women are figured as selfish and symbol of commercial in the urban so, the characters are more realistic to the present society. De novels begin from city life and ends in another country or another multi city of India. The clashes between culture and persons are vastly portrayed like NRI and western life styles, south Indian, Punjabi, Marathi etc clash of cultures is introduced by Shobha De's works. It indicates mixed society where people are running behind capitalistic life style. By this she gives a good picture of the late or post modern situations in the Indian context.

During 1960's and onwards Indian film world glittered with glamour and where De first joined a sari company as a model. When she was in her teenage and she was quite attracted towards Hindi films and later she started interviewing some of the famous film stars for magazines like *Star Dust*, *Shooting Stars*, where she is still as editor writer. The colorful photos and gossips, the reality check of their life and relation, financial benefits, like this so many messages she gave to the common people as facts. Using her first language Marathi with English it becomes another kind of language.

The people are very interested with such matters so that De reached fame. She debated on the Hindi film world attending many interviews. Here she realizes what way the right position for women. Shobha De's writings sold out very fast in the market for the same reason that she focused on hidden matters. Not only De focused on the life of common people even she interacted with present day politicians and famous film stars.

If we take the example of politics there also De condemns the ruling party of India; she also writes about sports. In the international front she represents like the social

stages of humans she openly debated what she feels and observes. Due to this boldness in her writing she is hated by a number of orthodox readers. From films to political issues and all levels of society where the clash of gender goes on all the time, she discussed every matter in her novels. In the field of politics she is still a columnist in news papers like *Times of India*, *The Indian Times*, where she explored boldly regarding present politics. So, De is not only dedicated to a limited area of literature, she is involved every stage of society. It is rare thing that a woman writes on these issues. In her world of writings is the most realistic.

The works of Shobha De stands on purely the present world of globalised and urbanized where humans especially women had liberation to break down all secret bondage of family as well as society when they become economically independent, these women characters protest the society. Like other contemporary literary writers of Indian English De too uses her separate view related to the post modern society. Without any stops she continues her long writings targeted on male system of dominancy. As a feminist of modern times she explores all things based on women or the world of subalterns.

The word like sex is common in De's works. It is really objection of every reader that without this word there is no matter in society or for that matter for feminism to discuss in their writings. Shobha De's works are examined as sometime porno graphs. These are common feature of De's fictions where some time she discussed only how women survive men who are dominates.

The presentation of women characters in De's novels is very bold and strong in all levels of life, like for instance they can live with anybody anywhere in the country or

outside for instance the character of Mikki in the novel *Sisters* where Mikki after marriage leads a very critical life with her husband. Few years later she divorced him. From cover page to end of the novel De poses the vivid angle of modern women which is bitter, by giving colorful and glamour touch she proves the culture of city. The characters interpreting the culture of capitalist way in the society this is common element De uses for her writings. Under the shadow of capitalism and world of competition women step into every fields and turn to live as happy or successful life, it offers women as much stronger than man. Their successful life takes them in the way of rich and wealthy but not without concern on any type of morality.

In every novel it comes out clearly the women characters of De are held in dilemma of the modern; the clash of cultures hidden in society is observed here by De. She is a keen observer of such things of society and especially in the context of women. From each level of family she has to depend upon, that is women's position as daughter or as house wife, who silently suffer, suffocating in the family, especially in the cities of India.

By labeling women as image and product of modern culture Shobha De may be attempting the wrong side because, modernity proposes separate style for men and women. De is creating the character of women that followed another style of life, and portrayed the reality of society. Shobha De focuses on daring women and she tried to produce reality or gives encouragement to those rebellious women.

All female characters are stereotyped; there is no much difference between them; they are all hungered for money, wealth, name and fame in modern culture which indicates the levels of women in modern society. In the world of capitalism and glitter,

where women settled themselves as one with beauty. Shobha De gives many instances for this type of women for instance Aasha Rani in *Starry Night* where she follows all the wrong ways guided by the males, photographer KeshanBhai, producers, co stars, and lastly by her mother.

De's suspect view on society is so wonderful it opened a new world of invasive culture. The women were suffering for a long time condition. No much changes have taken place, De too debated about women's hidden world in the urban context. They are not to be dedicated only for the kitchen or household but they are trying to become socially successful. In the urban areas of Indian society where people often located in struck traffic or multi buildings with narrow apartments, sometime on the side of shabby locality; where women totally fall in a dilemma to find out themselves or their personal identity. The dominate society stops the growth of women's freedom even by physical violence.

This human matter is pictured in De's work; that husband is always dominating on the wife and she silently suffers inside the four walls of the house. For instance women character in the De's short story collection *Small Betrayals*, where Malini and her husband live in a small cottage in the Bombay city. Both are working in different professions but one day her husband plans to leave India and settle in America to earn money and wealth. But the wife Malini has her long attachment with the house as well as neighbors.

She didn't want to leave the country. She rejects the offer of her husband and discussed with her old mother. The old mother too suggested her to go with her husband as an Indian moral wife. She told her similar life story when Malini was in her womb her

husband too left her for business. He went to another country but never came back. After listening to this sad story of her mother Malini still don't want to go with her husband, even if she was now carrying. She leaves her husband and is ready to stay with her old mother and for the forthcoming baby.

The silent suffering of women and their suffocation has continued generation to generation. But De brings a difference to them and makes them to strongly hate the system and they condemned it. For this sake we can see many differences between other women writers and Shobha De is criticized by others in society. Even about political issues of India she directly writes what she feels, what she observes. Hence Shobha De's works purely stands on modern culture and style of capitalism. Women in urban areas, where every woman is busy with her struggle to search for a way of success and her identity in society.

In the Indian context it is difficult for them to reach it, because of gender bias. But in the novels of De all woman are hero of their life, because often they are independent in all aspects. If we take another version of De's writing that is Bolly wood news, here from 1960 to the present new films, hero and heroines their relations to economical status are strongly discussed by De. Sometimes it may be gossip, interview of famous film stars, and world of glamour, beauty, sometimes relating to facts she spontaneously wrote in her film magazines, and in news papers columns. In the urban social web of Indian culture women shifting from old customs to new culture, like changing their relations with others. Even women are not safe in the hands of women, men in the hands of men for lesbianism, or homosexuality. She reveals such hidden secrets of the corporate world.

Every work of Shobha De gives a new vision of urban life, the characters are hung on modernity that they don't want to leave. Instead they too introduced newness in

common and bonded their life, like they go to work, parties, business, modeling, shooting films, meeting and dating with opposite sexes where they open up to bad ideas and habits etc.

All the women and men characters in De's works are totally different from the common humans; they have separate style of living and lots of wealth. De takes broken marriage and unhappy life of women, who seek for good companionship or else she wants to exit the situation. By their personal struggle they rise in society and become label of success. De's world of fictions is a mix of all type of culture, success and failures, rise and fall of life. Indian writing in English has recently added De like writers in it, and such authors write what they experienced from the notion of feminism. The perspective of women in the present world is entirely based on gender, as well as on the basis of wealth.

So, modern writers use these elements as one of the tool for their writings. The liberation of women is going on its straight way. It is never constant in their life in various ways, they implicate that they are stronger than any other.

De and her writings reflect the realm in society which is unseen by common people. She looks at that with very deep speculation. There is no other writer who comments on such cases of women, it is a totally negative shade of women's characters which she portrayed in her novels. The life of modern women is never fixed in society because they need a special place in the different levels of family and in society.

The condition of patriarchy did not allow their liberty so, they become rebellious and as well as alone in their life. De follows these disturbed characters women and by giving support to their dreams to become liberated from especially Indian society. In all

the novels of Shobha De heroines are stereotyped and these characters of women are disturbed in one or another angle. They disputed by family and by society. It is real situation of women who are suffocated in the world of dominancy.

Their life can take many turns, and no stops, they continue the search of good human or healthy society. But according to De it is not possible, instead they exit it. De is a contemporary writer she directly focused on women and men relation in glittering cities like Bombay. Every time she debates on high life or people who are bourgeois: there is no surprise they are the hunters of wealth, money, and power and without any gender discrimination. But in De's works are glorified those women characters and the inner voice of feminine.

De's writings are wonder pieces because there is no hide and seek she directly discussed everything in her writings. Where the question of gender does not stop from giving any justice to women, De tries to project all of them in one frame of literary work like fictions. Shobha De borrows purely from modern feminist style. On this basis her bunch of female characters stands. She tried to project them as could be in the same condition as, friends, divorced Sisters, disputed by parental love and care, and finally husband dominancy. It may be the innocence of women to trust on others, but finally they are betrayed. De's exposes of the new world of glitter and fancy where woman is victim or objectified thing. The women fail to face the real situation of society and support through characters. By the different attitudes of modern culture women fell in sickness of the sentimental or relatively of their own.

De's connectivity with the various aspects of society, she draws it in her writings, not a positive force but always as a negative shade. De's works are different from others



where she openly discussed every matter of human, and made a separate world of feminine where they are completely human crossing Indian culture and the orthodox. On the women she focused as weaker by gender, searched by their relations, and their fixed identity in the context of urban life. This is a fact of women's condition. De's liberated women fail to live in the frame of family or normal society; it seems misuse of their freedom and life. Where De says they are all well educated and modern typed, but often they fail to balance their personal affairs or relations with others.

Their reshaped life spreads out in society not in one way but in all the way; they are shifting from old to new. By labeling women as modern De built new society. Her vision of humans is not common, but only as symbol of female, For these reasons itself she is considered as porn writer, like other feminist writers in India Shobha De too goes along with the physical and social side of humans which referring to urban culture.

Hence the long criticisms on Shobha De never end; because various readers do not accept this type of vulgarity in writings. If she wants to tell something unique she can take many current issues of women which are already fixed in society and in peoples mind but according to De and her writings it proves as right.

Regarding the women and their identity in the present world, it is typical to justify that the urban or modern women are living happily but those who are suffering illiteracy, poverty, out dated culture, they continue living in the shadow of distress. Still it depends on the humans and their other relationships. The society what it offers to women is more important than any other things. From the impact of feminist theory the issues on gender becomes part of social life, a majority of women's turn rebel by this.

Due to De's bold writing she has become popular in a short time in the Indian literary field. Her works become popular also in the like London University and other press where De's novel is one of compulsory text for graduate students. Discussion about Shobha De and her works are distinctive form in the field of Indian fiction. Whereas other writers stand for issues of feminism or women life, De is on the side of corporate and capitalist adventure. In this way De's works justify the purely side of critics because she never attempts anything good or positive about the women or the men life through her works.

Living in a sophisticated society the human became cruel and faceable. De's writings cut off all moral images of human relations and values. According to Shobha De's imagination the stuffed character mind with wealth, money, and power, it all into turns a negative shade. For instance, character of Kumar Bhandari who is a well reputed and turns into very rich business man in the novel *Socialite Evening*. He already has four wives. But Anjali starts her affair with him at a party meeting. Finally they get married and it was third marriage for him but she didn't know his personal matters. When they start to live in the big house she comes to know the one bitter fact that he was having a homosexual affair with his servant from the south named Murthy. Later Murthy starts to blackmail Kumar and captures all his property.

Hence the picture of capitalistic life goes with very different way of society. De uses them in her very writings and portrays the city life of the common man to the high levels of society. Her writings dedicated to upper class people or middle class women who were in search of their identity in multi cultured society such as Bombay. The women protagonist faces various turns in their life and it is a gaming of shadow. They are

never respected or occupy good positions. All the heroines of De's are represented as stars of capitalistic culture and by this way they reach top of society.

From the perspective of feminism she tries to project women from another side in society or families. It may be as daughter, wife, friend, or sister relations it were as if losing their moral value in society. From her vision it is true that women are like objects in the hands of dominating society or the male gender, they turn into a suppressed class.

In her every fictions of it is proved the reality of women's life in the context of capitalist culture. By using the glamour touch to every women character she shines the beauty of women in a very ugly manner. Because as being one of the models and as well as journalist she looked at both the points of view.

Shobha De and her works are purely based on the capitalist culture in Indian society. A whole generation of the modern depends and follows capitalism. According to that vision there is nothing purified, everything is mixed and a type of vulgarity. Indian writers well centered their idea and captured this situations of society and the helplessness of women becomes an instrument of their writing. It is also the central idea of Shobha De's works.

All her works are much similar between each other. One thing is never confirmed that De never goes for solution of it. Instead she reveals every hidden matter of society and the human relations in multi cities like Bombay. By creating the web of women relations in the present modern society she portrays the women were really suffocating in modern culture.

They are in search of their liberty and identity. By crossing all obstacles some of them reach their goal but most of them feel the failure because of the gender dominancy

on women. The works of De are more truthful, because these represent capitalist cultured society this they. Her comments on human relation only based on sex; apart from this she never discussed anything in her works. In the modern literature there is considerable impact of newness and modernity where De like authors made their permanent land mark that never changes. She portrays women's hollowness through her characters because they have not found any strong fields where they can feel themselves comforted or safer; from family to society women were not in good positions. They struggle to reach good positions according to their own wish and De like writers give support to that kind of women in society.

Shobha De's different style of writing attracts the new generation and she uses all types of tricks to hold the readers: it may be colorful pictures or photos of women and some gossip.

Her use of words Hindi in an English book, the comments on Indian culture she attempts a separate Hindi style from other writers. De's different style of writing attracts the common people of society because it is very near to the truth and also on matter of glittering world of Hindi film and stardom. The interest of middle class people who look at the world with passion, De's works becomes source for them. From cover page to inside matter she delivered everything about rich life in high city. De gives direct interviews of famous Hindi film stars and their personal life, as well as literary personalities like Kushwant Singh who was a contemporary of those periods.

In the post colonial decades terms like culture and capitalism become common to human life and in society. In the Indian context too culture deals its various faces with society. Women are good instance of how culture impacts on human life. Especially

culture and capitalism are two faces of modern society. And the result we can find by women only because they condemn the old and always introduced new to human life. Culture has its various like, food, dressing, customs, living styles, marriage, patriarchy, family, etc where we can see lot of changes in modern eras.

Modern writers like Shobha De who envisions new culture for Indian society. Women she often target to portray as figure of culture and capitalism. The works of Shobha De completely focus on capitalism and culture of the modern society with especial reference to Bombay like capital city of India. De tries to reveal the secrets of modern culture.

The culture of capitalism had its very deep impact on human life in modern period and women are real instance of it, because now days the women and their position in society or in the family has completely changed. In the modern culture of capitalism also women seek to become equal to the men in all the fields of society. The cultural growth considered as growth of society, they want liberation from all rigid customs and culture.

Capitalism reduced hundreds of working class women to become manual unskilled laborer, like sweeper women, etc. in large industries and factories. As for the middles class women capitalism barred them from public sphere of economy and neglected her to the private sphere of home and family where there was no money for her.

Indian women climb over the barriers of modern culture and become more- strong than the olden times. De like writers encourages the women to involve in new culture and ways of capitalism. All the modern authors deal with such contemporary issues of society. They offer modernity to humans and their relations. Shobha De and all her

fictional world directly open the way of culture of capitalism in high cities and society and portrays women as hero of new life styles. There is no doubt the women characters of Shobha De had broke all the image of culture in society like, divorce become common for them, and extra marital relations are some instances of capitalist, culture in De's novels.

Shobha De writes only on elite and rich society. And which is mirror of capitalist life of humans where there is no limitations on their freedom they do what they want. All the women characters live high culture and are purely product of capitalism. De's novels reveal the modern culture which is product of capitalism in Indian society. The high cities where fully follow the capitalistic style especially in that levels of society women are liberated and more strong than man. De's works usually based on high culture of society which sometime breaks off all conventional aspects. These women in capitalism are portrayed as hero of their bold life, and normally considered as feminist.

Shobha De as modern feminist writer in Indian context uses all technique to catch readers. Her all works always opens new culture or new face of society. De maintains two sides of society in her fictions, on one side Indian culture or fully orthodox woman and another side she directly presents modern culture which is result of capitalism. Most feminist attack capitalist and argue it. Like other feminist of modern period De too presents the ideology of capitalism and culture for her literary works.

In her novels there are many instances of characters, it may be Mikki in the novel *Sister*, or Karuna in *Socialite Evening*, who are projected as women of capitalism and as figures of modern culture. But they came from already wealthy family. In this way capitalism had the effect of reinforcing traditional biases. But their life is different

compared old traditions of Indian society. Modern women are purely as housewives and are neglected by their husbands who are involved in business and capitalism.

So women attempt to come out of it and find success and sometime with its wrong direction and negative shades of culture and capitalism each are inter linked to women and society. The women of capitalism are not ready to accept what is given to their life; they break up all the rules and live as they wish.

In the context of capitalism women much associated with high culture in urban areas. From the levels of family to society women and their position become changed. Women are good instance for various developments in society they shift from old orthodox to new or modern culture.

All the characters of women's in Shobha De's novels represent the various dimensions of capitalist cultural struggle in high city like Bombay. They can address as models, film stars, business women, educated women, high cultured housewives, etc all vivid faces of women's struggle for capitalism and culture. The women of capitalism are fully liberated in their life which common feature of culture and in Shobha De's works.

Modern capitalism produced a large strata of middle class women who end up being private wives, queens of the sentimental sphere, dependent on their husbands for life; they were the high cultured woman. These women when they tried to enter in the professional sphere met with obstacles. Shobha De deals with such issues which related to capitalism and culture in context to modern Indian society. Shobha De and her works open the all secrets of capitalist and its culture in city life. She specially speculates on woman they are the instance of capitalist culture. Almost all women characters who appear in the novels of Shobha De they are mirror of this capitalist cultural struggle.

In the urban society of India where human life usually based on their economic condition so, the women of De's novels followed its various ways. It is some time good but most of the time De portrayed it as bad ways in Indian society. The women of capitalism achieve very highly in society and goes with its vivid faces. Women life in capitalism is not fixed because sometimes they become winner in their life and some time they lose everything, the best example for this is character of Mikki in the novel *Sisters*, and Aasha Rani in *Starry Night*.

Shobha De projects the high culture for women and their role in family and as well as in society. By giving the encouragement De supposed to develop Indian society. De's fictional world is entirely different from other Indian writers. Her concept of capitalism is highly focused in every angle of her novels. Women fight with the system of society and come with success and they create new way of culture.

In the capitalist culture women want to play very different roles from house wife to working women. It may be as daughter, mother, wife, friend, sisters, etc. the women are lead with successful life. They are like moral to other women. There many instances in the works of Shobha De such as Aasha Rani's mother Amma who is divorced by her husband. She has two daughters, and they left their hometown and come to Bombay. Aasha comes under the presence of her mother whose ambition is that she wants to see her daughter should become a film star. For that sake even she forces her daughter to prostitution. Here we can see how women play mother role in capitalist film industry. In the glittering city like Bombay they start searching for their luck to become famous Hindi film star and to earn money, name and fame.

Aasha's mother wants her young daughter to enter the film field even in her teenage, Amma forcefully sends her daughter to several men to get an opportunity in



film, it may be good or even it may be degraded films. The mother wants to prove herself as rich and famous so, she sends her daughter without care for morals of society. At the end of the novel *Starry Night* Aasha is also dreaming about her own daughter to become as film star on the silver screen. Now Aasha's father too joins her and gives his support. With many ups and downs Aasha's life reaches one side of glittering society.

This novel portrayed the role of women in capitalistic city. It is sure that they never bother about morality but they care only for capitalistic culture, show biz. After all this eventful life Aasha becomes heroine but of only degraded films. And she starts to have relationship with various filmy persons. She in the end migrated to a western country and settled herself with a new husband who is supportive of her film interests. Then Aasha becomes mother of a daughter who is named Sasha, she too has grown up and now Aasha starts to think about her daughter. Finally she decides to return to India in order to give a chance for her daughter to become a Hindi film actor.

Hence every character of Shobha De's novels reveals the reality of capitalist culture especially in high cities. De too discusses such different motherly role for women. With capitalism, life is completely changed. De goes with such changes of culture in Indian society. In capitalism male dominates and social hierarchy too persists. Woman wants to break up this with their own struggle and for the same changes they even go in the direction of crime and gangster it for it take up illegal activities. Extra marital relations, homo or lesbianism all this becomes common for these women.

The capitalist women are rebellious in their life. They fight against their exclusion from it. Shobha De uses them as hero of their life and she discussed with both sides of Indian society. In her novels she directly depicts the capitalism and its culture in Indian

society. With reference to high city like Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, etc. De reveals the life and reality of capitalism and its culture especially impact on women.

Capitalism has provided a wide way to all humans but for women it may be difficult to reach its success in so, their negative shades of characters. Through all her women characters Shobha De opens the way of capitalist culture in Indian society. In her bunch of women characters De gives very good comments on the capitalist culture.

From their dressing to living everything depends on way of capitalism, they go through it. Women want equally to be independent to man and they live as they wish but it seems they are going to break the culture.

Shobha De depicts women's struggle to have a share of capitalist fruits. They chase after it thinking that it will give them joy, but after it does not. On the other side they also find conventional empowering roles of society for women is eroded and failed in the circumstance. The capitalist women took their challenge to life and they struggle for it. De authors literature directly debating on such issues of women and society.

Shobha De and her point of view on high society is completely different because she looks at Indian society in the frame of capitalism. She realizes that the woman in capitalism and culture neither safe nor happy instead they are broken hearted in relationships, divorced, and live with other relations. There is no doubt women of capitalism are wanting full liberty on their life but they do not get it. The shift of woman role from domestic to capitalism has taken very long journey and many hurdles for them. They tried to achieve something different in their life in various fields. They are not caring for anything except money or power. De's women fail because they fail to see that capitalism has hurdles towards the inclusion of women in it. It becomes essential for their life.

The fictional world of Shobha De purely stands on capitalist culture and women, because in her every novels De discussed various issues of capitalism and hoe it has impacted on culture in Indian society. She refers only the life of city people and focuses on women role. It is sure that every woman in capitalism leads with sometimes success and sometimes they become failures in their life. De gives them a touch of modernity.

Capitalism and culture are the two faces of modern society. On this basis De wants to plead a different style of narration in her fictions. By giving full liberty and support De shows the reality of women life in capitalist society. Considering Indian culture De gives the freedom to her women characters, as for instance in the early parts of her novels deals with married life of woman in high city. In the later parts she deals with broken marriage or relations. These women turn to purely capitalism and what it offers for them. According to Shobha De's works they have all power to do so, that may be reason till doth De and her writings are considered as controversial.

In the Indian social system family plays major role. In modern era's this system of family become completely changed because of capitalism and its high culture. The modern family has become the hub of consumer culture, and played a central role in the flow of money and goods.

And the roles of women as wives and daughters in central to this modern capitalist life of human addressed now as modern so, this vast change of culture or society can be studied in Shobha De novels, De uses this new style of writings and attracts readers. De's writings are really the good instance of capitalist culture and women.

The novels of De reveal the culture of modern society and how it shaped by capitalism. In these levels of society the family too shifts from old customs to new

culture. Especially women are dominated in such cases. Those women are considered as mirror of capitalism and culture often they live with broken tradition of Indian society.

Women of capitalism condemn the system of male dominancy and patriarchy. They lead with their individual life. De shows the women in capitalism, their position and struggle sufferings etc. most of the time those women get economic power but disturbed life or relations. They go with success but in wrong the way morally.

These women capitalist have hunger for human relations and wealth. For this they committed everything. They create new and modern culture in Indian society like they can have type of habits and they lead any type of relations. By studying the works of Shobha De it is clear that capitalist women are different. As a feminist author De supports the female characters and rejects male dominancy. These women of capitalist culture are explosive; from family levels to society levels they never bother of anything that much they become strong on their desires of life. The best instance is the character of Minix in the novel *Strange Obsession*.

Minx is daughter of a rich government officer and she uses her power of wealth for everything. Amrita Aggarwal who comes from a middle class family and wanted to become a film star in Hindi films, the novel deals with something strange issues of females, later they become good friends and Minx offer everything to Amrita. They live with each comfort and finally Amrita comes to know that Minx is lesbianian.

Capitalism holds up the gendered family system, because it makes up a cultural hub for all sorts of goods consumption. Women who are forced to live inside such families system want to come out of it. In the world of capitalism women want to occupy a place of success. They are not bound by its cultural role imposed on them:

They free from all this and these women cross all the limitations of society. In the domestic levels to outer society everything is rebuilt by them with touch of economic power. In the capitalist world were women struggle for their identity. Through the various fields of society women tried to create new identity for themselves. They are attracted towards what capitalism offers them. The women of capitalism have their separate identity because they are independent in all aspects. Those women speculate the world for their hopes and desires they are not concerned on anything. In the frame of capitalism it becomes easier for them to reach their success of life.

### **De's novels as allegories of late capitalism processes**

De's novels give us allegories of late capitalism. Her women are passionate heroines they are sentimental. They love intensely. But they are attracted towards powerful and rich men who are successful industrialist and business men. They fall in love with such men and pin their hopes on them.

Wife or mistress the women of De's novels want to remain loyal to these capitalist men, they even wear the mangala sutra for them, and keep the Kadava Chouth. They want to realize the ideal of companionate wife in the context of capitalism, the women as soul mate of man can do anything to be in a pace with him. These women are not liberated, they are steadfast to their capitalist men. Their struggles are to heal the contradiction of the culture of capitalism. Thus the entry of these women into the sphere of money and profession breaks up the division between the sentimental and professional economic. It all becomes mixed up.

For instance, character Maya in the novel *Socialite Evening* from the city of Calcutta, a young and beautiful model: Her marriage with Ranjan who is from city of

Bombay because he never looks back to a new wife; His only ambition is to earn money. And as house wife she should serve him and his old mother and to listen her advice. Hence the new married life of Maya turns dull and she thinks of divorce, eventhough she hates to upset her parents.

Finally she starts to have an affair with a young boy named as Nikhil who supports her feelings and passions. He is her neighbor. She goes with Nikhil hiding from her husband and mother-in-law, she enjoys her life. At the end of the novel Nikhil gets engaged with another girl and very soon their marriage takes place according to Nikhil's mother wishes. When Maya comes to know about it she is disappointed and realized the capitalist culture of society. Her life again goes back to her loveless husband and old costumed mother-in-law.

Hence there are so many stories indicate that capitalist culture. There is no question of their liberty because all that women who live in the shadow of capitalism. Shobha De proves it in her fictions. By studying her works there is one frame of society we can see, that is modern life style. Women in capitalism often face lot of struggle. It may be house wives or it may be working woman they run behind money and power. Through the various roots they reach top of social structures or levels. These women hate the system of male dominate that stops women from liberty and harassment on them like the cases of dowry, child abuse, sexual harassment, etc.

The men of Indian society always stand for dominancy. And women of capitalism and culture fight against this system in society. These women adopt new perspective about their life and start to search for it. Especially this is common theme of Shobha De

novels she gives fixed places for men characters and as well as for women characters. De tries to open new ways for those women who are living in capitalist culture.

Capitalism's women want their separate identity and their urge for success never stops. They totally come out from rigidity in social structure, leave it behind in life and move forward. Only this can be offered by number of feminists including Shobha De. She symbolized women of modern who era purely stands on the tool of capitalism and its culture. De refers only urban parts of India and with upper and middle class life of people.

In De's works capitalism is deep rooted thing. Every story and every character tells the various problems of capitalism and culture in Indian society. They create new world of their passion and become heroine of it but capitalist men are like money minded and always thinking of it.

This common feature can be addressed in the lives of capitalism and culture finally both men and women dispatched in two different ways and it is most of time with negative way in society. In the capitalist culture women want to have their different roles in society like as models, film stars, business women, house wives, etc and their experience with capitalism is too different from one to another. The urban areas offer so many things to human life and growth of economic condition and especially women have separate space for their growth development of economic condition.

The women's speculation on capitalism and its culture is completely different. Where they play with life own and fulfill their desires without any hiding from society. Women came own to every field and pleaded them as able to do anything. Women of capitalism suppose to enter in glittering the world of film, fashion which represents

capitalist culture of urban sectors. They depict the glittering culture through the medium of capitalism; men and women present its impact on human life.

As many feminist's fight, Shobha De too against male culture or condition of patriarchy in society. But she gives full liberty to women and shows different ways for them to reach success. Especially by adopting capitalism in their life formally women who are out of all bounds and breakup their marital status and found new professions according to their wish.

Woman is victimized for all these impact not only the breakup of marriage but also they are very disturbed by issues of gender from their birth itself. The parents feel daughter may be burden for them so they are ready to send her anywhere for instance character of Nisha in the novel *Sultry Days*. In this novel De discuss a daughter who is disturbed by her parental relation.

Nisha is only daughter of family even though she feels unhappy with parents because her father provides everything for wife and daughter but he never mingled with them. He is an officer and family is rich, so they have everything in their life. Even as a young college girl Nisha is seeking a good companion who should support her feelings. Finally in the novel she finds her college boy friend named Deb and she addressed him as God because he supports her and giving advice about life.

Another side of the novel Nisha's father has another relation with another woman. He neglected wife and daughter. The parents quarrel with each other every day. Nisha always searched for good relations in her life but unfortunately she missed her parental love and affections. On another side her boy friend God betrays her. At the end of the novel her boy friend died in shootout then she again feels the tragedy of her whole life.



Hence there are many things that hide in the shadow of capitalism and which associate more with woman life. De as a feminist represents them as model of modern society and they deconstruct patriarchy. From the waves of feminisms every woman get their equality and fixed positions in society. De elaborates it in her writings. All the women of capitalist culture have broad view of life but De portrays their hollowness in character and insecurity in life. Their dreaming on society continues from generation to generation. De uses binary oppositions like good and bad, traditional and modern, male and female, moral ways and immoral ways in society, all these elements become centre of Shobha De's writings.

Capitalist women display the liberation of women in Indian milieu. Almost all the feminists did same approach to society. It is sure that number of critics condemns the women and their writings. But De never stops for that she continues her hunting male characters in her writings. It becomes the mirror of modern or capitalist culture. Especially in urban areas where women position is kept high in social orders, their circumstance too impact on life of woman. Sometimes it looks like the selfishness of all the women who come under capitalism.

They live for their wishes, not concerning on any other relation of family or society. So much so that they may be called as self centered in the system of capitalism and its culture. De conveys the reader the reality of capitalism and culture in Indian society. Through her web of human relations De proves the impact of capitalism and its culture. Each character had separate view on their life and styles and De tries to mix them all in one frame of the novel. She glorifies woman as supreme than man, her offering over liberation.

Capitalism's woman breaks the hierarchy conditions in society with their ability and skills they projects as equal to other. De expands the women roles in society and as well as in the family without any typical conditions women are portrayed in her novel. All the women characters of Shobha De have direct links with capitalist culture. Its result may be right or wrong but they are not bothered, they simply flow with capitalism.

De's works are allegories of capitalism she opens new way for the modern generation. Where women are subjugated by others they suffer for success and their liberation. Finally they broke all the image of morality or culture of society.

Women become stronger than man and they plead it in every aspect. The capitalism offers so many things to women through those ways women are consider as independent about their life. In capitalist culture society develops the role of women in domestic and in social structure. Shobha De includes this social condition for her writings. Most of De's fictions deal with upper class culture and their life style in high cities. She focuses especially on women who are suffocated in capitalist society and in the capitalist family. It is common thing the Indian society brings separate place to women but in capitalist culture it totally disappears and women therefore want to get back their privileges.

The women of capitalism don't want to have any fixed role or position. They want their life flowed and they enjoy their life according to their wish. They never stop and never think of good and bad, everything is majored by wealth, money, and power. De reveals such life of humans in the shadow of capitalism and urban. All the women characters fully plunged in capitalism and culture. In the wide umbrella of capitalism women become main icon of its culture. The capitalist and culture brings new life style of

consumerism and domesticity. They are unaware of positive result of it, instead they all go with negative shade of it. Those women even sometimes are involved in criminal activities and followed the dark ways of society.

They are not different from man in their search for power, money, fame, success, and pleasure; it may be consumptive pleasure or merely sexual enjoyment. De addresses them as almost all rich and fixed them as upper class. Here the women have their liberty so they did what they wish. Hence the middle class women try to reach that particular level in society but often they fell in failures in their life.

Shobha De depicts through the characters about reality of capitalism and its culture which impacts on woman's life in various ways. In urban sectors she refers its modernity and life style usually they hunger for power, wealth, and money, good relations, etc all the humans in one shadow of capitalism show very different way of living. Especially with women this capitalist culture plays major role in their life and they want to break it up and want to create new culture life and transform the frame of capitalism.

These women crack the wall of capitalist society and live as their own wish which is an aggressive one. De exposes such women as hero of her very fictions and all the women characters come in one line like stereotyped. She explores the capitalist culture with Indian frame of society. By addressing them with various fields of society De pleads it fact and true living of women in capitalism. The women of capitalism strike on a separate stage of Indian society with different speculations about their life. Shobha De gives the freedoms to women who are suffocated in the modern cultured. Through her writings the women class becomes strong and alert about the situations and they find new way for their life.

De's novels always locate in high cities of India which are glittering and glamorous, and attracts women. Usually the bourgeoisie people who are very eager for wealth, name and fame in society, they can easily step into the world of capitalism and its culture. Many authors of modern era have dealt with this commonly in their writings. In urban areas which are considered as society of the capitalist where women locate themselves as only upper class, house wives, etc. Shobha De's women characters are best instances for this. These types of women who are marginalized in society and considered as capitalist cultured they have their complete freedom on their life to change all this.

In the breakdown of capitalist culture women try to rebuilt their life by themselves entering the arena of capitalism. Shobha De proves it in her every novel and focused on women position in it; of course these women stand high and because of their struggle in life they attempt success. De directly took them on in her novels and offers every freedom to become more strong and equal to man. The women of capitalism are often victimized. Their liberty which crossed every limitations is often thought of as bad and negative for human life. She projects women as rebels of capitalist culture. It is something strange that De never goes for low class of people or the poor class of people in society. Always she preferred upper and middle class in city.

Capitalist women fall in the dilemma of modern capitalist culture for their life. Then they become rebellious about culture and society. The gains of capitalism beckon the women; it may be economic freedom, political freedom or educational freedom. Woman wants to become equal to others in society. By this way women reach the peak of success in capitalist society.

The system of capitalism which is contemporary development in Indian social structure and centre of this is the site of women oppression. Women of capitalist culture remain as model of society in modern eras. Shobha De uses such figures as protagonist for her novels.

As contemporary writer and feminist De directly focused on current situations of society like marriage- divorce, unbound human relations which are commonly addressed in the breakup of capitalist culture.

Post independence India implies all new things to humans in society. Especially in urban areas where life only stands for commercial activities the women stand for objectives of this capitalist society. In traditional society marriage was always related to money and prestige and not for love. De's women chase after love and sexual pleasure. Which are fore grounded by capitalist culture. Shobha De depicts the culture of capitalism in the high cities like Bombay and Calcutta. The women of this capitalism don't have any fixed position in their life, it swiftly changed by themselves. Shobha De stands first in the list of contemporary writers where she portrays every game of capitalist society. Through her fictional world De gives bitter message of capitalist culture with especial context of women.

By studying De's works it comes to realize modern culture in urban areas and role of men and women. There is no doubt capitalism had inventions only in urban places of Indian society. Women are good instance of capitalist culture in society because they become completely domesticated. They condemn the system of capitalist patriarchy and male dominance, they create the new wave of culture in society.

Indeed all women of society start to follow capitalist culture on their gender roles, want and find a new image to identity. They want to be independent in all the aspects of

society and some of them have very interesting life. The characters in De's fictions portray its negative impact on Indian society.

According to De as a feminist it is true that all men and women live with capitalist culture. De wants to convey the readers about life in the urban and she discussed only about dark side of society, family and relation of capitalist culture. Especially women who faced disappointment in their personal lives they step into another way for their life. Usually these women are seeking for good human relations but which become nightmare.

In Indian male dominated capitalist society women can't get healthy relations with anybody it may be out of family or within family because everything depends on commercial and gender. Women face hurdles to reach their success Shobha De selects that race of women and giving them support she pleads that women also like men. De never did difference between genders. Through all her women characters she pleads the liberation of women in capitalist culture. They target for money, wealth, and power, beyond this they never go for the good or right way for their life. As citizen of Bombay, Shobha De imitates the life of capitalist culture where she wants to fix the place of women as the real hero of life. De exposes the femininity in every women character. From their dressing to living style everything depends on capitalist culture.

They rebuilt their positions in society and in family structures with new image. The women of capitalist culture gain their liberation and sometime victimized for that. They live with vividness and become strong in their life. They never have any concern or moral value of life De gives many instances for these situations like the character of Madam in story *Elevator*. Often she is called as Madamji by the elevator security boy. In this short story the main character Madam lived in a multi strayed building and has a high profile job in a big company.

The story opens the real life of capitalist society. Every day Madam meets this elevator boy named Chottu and gives him money to get soap for bathing and good dress. But Chottu's life is miserable that he belongs to a very poor family whose father is irresponsible about family financial matters. So, Chottu being son of the family took responsibility for the money borrowed by his father; about two lakhs he reveals his tragicall story to Madam but she feels pity for him and moves on.

At the end of the story Madam and her mother who lived on the twenty first floor of the building blame Chottu who visited her house to give back something. Madam's old mother badly scolds him and he is beaten by the head security also. Finally Chottu who came to the city to build his career and job now he lost everything in his life. He returns to his native village. Hence this story depicts the shadows of capitalist culture where humans lost their least morality. Which is reality of capitalist society and women too come across as such.

Shobha De wants to give all type of liberations for her women characters through the weapon of capitalist culture. They plunge into this culture. Shobha De creates a web of characters especially women who are in the search of their identity in male hegemony. Shobha De is not a common writer or a common feminist. She stands for her unique style of narrating techniques in her novels.

De attracts the readers by her mix of language and new style of writing. As the modern feminist Shobha De too approached women and their roles in society, she uses the ladder that is capitalist culture for her every writing. It takes the women to the peak of society and success. She creates such generations who are much passionate of the new culture of late capitalism.

## **Conclusion**

This chapter has argued that De's novels narrativize the typical life of capitalist women. Stereotypically they are wives, daughters and mothers within the capitalist family system. They usually lead a private life cut off from the sphere of capitalism and business where men, husbands are dominates. Such women in De's novels experience their condition as oppressive and strive to get out of it by breaking up the capitalist family system.

Subsequence they enter the public sphere of money and capital and seek to be like their men, and commit all the follies. It is argued that this representative pattern of plot in De's novels humiliation as allygories of capitalism. And that De uses them to explore the nature and processes of capitalism and the culture it products. Women's struggle against its cultural oppression and they tried to be on fan with women demonstrates the gendered margins far capitalist processes.



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*Chapter - 3*

*Feminism and Shobha De's Novels*

## **Chapter-3**

### **Feminism and Shobha De's Novels**

Eventhough it is hardly recognized, Feminism in the world over arose in response to the gender inequalities and adversity dealt to the women class by modernity and capitalism. Whatever the negative sides of traditional social form, it had allowed women economic share of social goods; since feudal capitalism did not privatize the household or domestic economy in which women were stake holders. This mitigated any gender division of labour, wherever it existed, at least at the level of common people. Similarly feudalism did not by law or in spirit bar women from politics, either at the local or the regional levels of power structure.

It must have come as a complete shock to these women when the modern political system, liberalism completely ignored them, as did the capitalist development, which, not only appropriated their economic sphere, and relegated her role completely to the biological. Everywhere ordinary women felt this impact of being bypassed by the new order and they reacted against it. Feminism therefore was middle class, because these changes impact these ordinary women.

Consequently to Feminism in the Indian society impacted by late capitalism women are the competitors in every field. Historically the position of women was totally different from the male. But it was a social bound to women's life and they want their liberations in all the aspects. So easily Feminism began its work to provide social justice to women. There are a number of feminists, who came under this revolution of feminism in their different ways: by writing or by revolutionary lobbying for rights, the women become very alert on their levels in society and this happened during the nineteenth and twentieth century. Since then there have been three waves of feminism, in modern India.

Capitalism is a step into society especially in the urban areas of India. In the urban areas which is full of vast growth the life of common people stands on capitalism. For capitalism independence beckoned them with all aspects even by economical means. They seek to build a new society of capitalization by this. In the early age of modernity which offered so many things to life and which fascinated the people, they hope to earn a lot by capitalism. It was like, equalization in class, high technology, women education, and rational role, literary progress, etc a wide range of things were going to be changed under the great shadow of capitalism. The Feminists got empowered and regenerated the life. Feminists created a new path of success.

Urbanization happens by capitalism. Many people migrated from one place to another and they are in search of opportunity and identity. Many industries were introduced which attracted the men and women for equality in all aspects. If we looked of capitalism impact on literature it is also a great development. By impact of capitalism the field of literature too changes, its modification was due to the common humans become more educated and smart living. By these vast movements women also want to hold capitalist position.

There is no doubt that the impact of late capitalism on Indian society is a recent. There are so many things hidden in this term, such as social, economical, educational, cultural, etc fields of society. The word introduced a commercial touch to common life of people. It was dominating on the life of the people.

Industrialization brought innovations of modernity; it may be the growth of science and technology, or growth of social progress to the common people. In the Indian context, industrialization process of the early decade of independence produced a great

many changes: such as introduction of huge machines, factories, multi-national companies, trades, the new arrival of electrical goods to the work field etc are basic changes which ushered in the age of late capitalism. The influence of globalization today in the Indian society is a recent one, where waves of revolutions took place and raised hopes of equality between gender and its related issues.

### **Capitalism and Urbanization**

In the Indian context of post independence vivid developments took place. Capitalism was also one cause for it by which everything was commercial and traded with multi companies. Through this Indian urbanism glittered in society and usually common people were attracted towards it.

Today in urban areas of India the day-to-day life and everything is shaped by the late capitalism. By late capitalism introduced modernity in the Indian context. The capitalism directly impacts on human life style, especial in context of women; Its worst impact was in the form of privatization of women as wives and mothers. They became neglected to the sphere of private household. Women naturally rebelled against this with waves of Feminism and sought to be included in the spoils of capitalism. There are wide developments that happened in the field of literature. The women writers began new style of writing and tell the fact of capitalism and urbanization.

Especially feminist writers like, Pandita Ramabai, Arundhithi Roy, Tasleema Nazrin, Shashi Deshpande, Jumhpa Lahari, Shobha De etc., so many of modern feminists approached capitalism in one way or another.

The recent and most good instance of this was Shobha De, because as she was citizen of a high city Bombay, a glittering world of India. She purely focused on that way

of living and it was full of capitalism. De's writings are a mirror of Indian urban life where women play very different roles in society. The invention of late capitalism produced the wide plot for feminism and female. De's works portrayed as purely capitalistic view in it, no where she discussed remaining issues of human life. Hers are different views full of capitalism and urban ideas. The people live in high city with a lot of competition between especially male and female.

Shobha De's characters fully depend on capitalism because they are modern people. In her every work we can justify the style of De's writing that it depend on it as the foundation of her works. There are so many issues that are hidden in society of capitalism and urbanism like women harassment, the world of crime, competition, modern life style, the culture of pubs and bars, parties, marriage, divorce, sex, modeling, business, and even lesbianism are discussed in the particular novels of De. Almost all the novels deal with capitalistic and urban life style. In the novel *Sisters* is portrayed a high life style. The two *Sisters* are well educated and maintain their life by business individually well earned with wealth and money. De presents those women characters as really identical figures because most of the time both *Sisters* were fully liberated about their own life.

They are living in the capital of India Mumbai, which always runs with the competitive world majorly occupied by males. Both the step *Sisters* took their life very easy and dedicated for money. The names of the two *Sisters* are Mikki (Mallika) and Alisha Hiralal. For these young women who found themselves as business icons in Bombay city, the social bounds like marriage, hierarchy were strange and hateful matters. Especially Mikki is the legal daughter of her rich father Harilal. Alisha on the other side belonged to the super middle class family and was the illegitimate daughter.

Alisha falls in love with doctor who gets her addicted. Even after her father's death continued the business in well progressive way. She earned a lot of property and become a big icon of business. Both step sisters meet together and share their life experience. They go to the late night party, have a number of boyfriends, visit to bars and contact with business males. Mikki the young lady who hates marriage in the beginnings in later attracted forwards cruel man.

Alisha's mother had been mistress of Harilal and becomes upset when he died. It is clear that there is no value for any human relations in life but they give more importance for money and wealth. Later in the novel the turning of Mikki's life, she may be wealthy and strong but her married life stops her liberty. Mikki finally decides to get married with Binny Malhotra. For fear of society she met one of old boy friend of hers. She knows he was also a good businessman and has a long time friendship with her.

Both agree and Mikki and Binny one day made their wedding. A few days later Mikki slowly understood the real intention of Binny because he turned out to be cruel on her and wants to possess all her property and wealth.

Thus Mikki's married life turns to tragedy. He harassed her physically and mentally. Mikki's husband beats her and kept her in a locked room. The husband wanted to take Mikki's signature on all documents, but she never did that. So, the arguments between them continued every day. One day Mikki comes to know that he was a married man and father of two children from his first wife Malini. When this matter was realized she became totally depressed about her life. She visits Alisha and tells everything before her. Both sisters take strong decision to divorce him and come out of his control.

When he turns cruel on Mikki she becomes helpless. But finally she applied for divorce. When the divorce came through she restarted to look forward at her business and live alone with money. Mikki has full liberty now that she can do anything in her life. She goes for dating with another person and at the end of the novel Mikki settled with a boy friend named Navin in a remote island country. She never came back to India. On other side Alisha's life also filled with mixture of many ups and downs. She also does not have satisfaction in her married life but she faced everything for the family.

Hence the capitalistic modern style was not so easy or happy, especially for women who directly suffered of it. In the modern period of Indian society which now covers by urban sectors where women identity was too critical, Shobha De refers purely as a citizen of Mumbai city, in such crowded area there is no morals or value for human relations, where only it is built on the commercial basis.

All of De's novels are about capitalism and society in high city like Bombay, its role in the public life Indians imitate the culture of modern and leave the older culture. De searches for humanity and human relations in such a capital city, through her different view. She finds no moral or common relatives in her search because everything depends on wealth or capitalistic power.

In the later Shobha De collection of short stories *Small Betrayals*, points out the life of rich people in high rise buildings. In this story, the first story deals with a young woman who travels by office cab and uses elevator to reach her home which is in the twenty third floor of the apartment building, she is addressed as 'Madam', by security and others who lived in the same apartment.

Her name was Alisha a very beautiful and modern type of person usually respected by security and especially elevator boy who was a teenager. Every day morning and evening she comes out through the elevator. One day she enquired with this boy actually he was from remote place and recently joined as security to that building. He was named as 'Chottu', very innocent and sincere at his work and duty. He does not have any home or family and as he said he belonged to a very poor family.

The Supervisor of security strictly ordered this boy to look at only the floor not at the persons and their personal matters. So, Chhotu always obeys and he observed Alisha madam's toe which was colored with blue nail polish. Her perfumed body impressed him. The full polished elevator with steel door smells fragrant and he liked it. He talks about his family condition, where his father has lent one lakh money.

Chhotu has come to this big city to earn money, one lakh which is a huge amount for him. But Alisha who was rich her dress and shoe itself cost that much and she thinks of it.

The young lady watches this boy every day and talks with him. One day she gives some money in his hand and told him to go purchase bath soap and bath every day which was good for health. The boy hesitates to take that huge amount, he has never seen that amount of money in his life. He normally rejected offers and gave her smiling face respect. It is very strange for that lady, that how she can react with him. She too went out silently from the elevator.

One day she gave money to that boy to bring some cigarettes for her. It was a very astonishing matter for that boy that a woman was smoking. Without telling anything he



brings the cigarettes from the shop to her. It was observed by another security who becomes very angry on him and starts to beat him very badly.

A number of visitors come to Alisha's house every day for official work and friends spend their time in her house. One day a person who was well dressed in suit and entered the elevator. His perfume was something different. When he goes to Alisha's house while returning he too observes Chottu and gives some money. But Chottu observes that now, his perfume smells like how Alisha smells.

The short story *The Elevator* reveals its urban style with human relations. Further in the story we can see that every Saturday a party was fixed at Alisha's twenty third floor house. It was a full busy day for Alisha and her mother as well as for the elevator. Ladies come with highly modern styled short dresses, sharp edged pointed heeled foot wear, very dark colored make up, with strong odor of perfumes which covers the elevator full polished steel room and Chottu is again fascinated by all these as facts life style of urban people. But as the elevator boy nobody respects him and his feelings.

Alisha suggested him for good clothes and bath every day. But he always skipped giving reason that he has coming from far away village and he has to change two buses to reach this duty place. This is again an indication of the life style of Indian upper class society and the poor class people in urban areas.

Where crowded people and modern styles are like a dream for poor fellows. Alisha wants to help him but her friends and mother curse Chottu because he was an unlucky fellow facing tragedy. They often convinced her that she is lucky to take birth in rich family. During festival season she distributed sweets full of ghee and Chottu tasted it and said he never tasted this type of rich laddu in his life.

So, Alisha was totally high class and this Chottu wants to reach that level but it is impossible for him in the story. Hence the story goes with two different ways of life, one is poor that is Chottu character and another one rich Madam Alisha and her mother the urbanized portrayed. Alisha's mother too condemns Chottu she warns him not to visit the house, just get lost. This incident makes Chottu feel too bad about himself. Finally in the story *Elevator*, Chottu leaves his security job and goes back to his village. These are some instances of urbanization and its impact on human life. De deals with same matters in all her stories which includes many turns and ups and down of life. Shobha De's observance on urbanization was something different from others it very closely comes through in her writings.

De's created characters fully depend on urban life style in India. After independence the vast growth of market and as well as society which offer many new things and directly covers especially in Indian big cities, where men and women too follows the new things.

De's work *Small Betrayals* is collection of short stories, which includes this story and there are a few stories which gives hints of some real pictures of urban life. So, the title itself tells the *Small Betrayals*.

So in this work every story discussed the minor faults and human guilt: the characters run behind money, wealth, power etc. For these things the human relations become very narrow and hollow in any type of relationship. By following urbanization people reach the path of success in their life and neglect the other issues. It was a truth that De attempts to reveal in her works. Without any hesitation she writes everything. So, it was clear the urbanization in Indian society and its condition.

There are many hidden agenda's in Shobha De's work as above discussed capitalism and urbanization are basic elements of her writings. As being modern feminist De concerns on female characters and portrayed them as more powerful than any man.

They took life matters like marriage, divorce, different relation, modernity etc very lightly. It is a common thing that every female wants her liberty in life. De catches this chance of female and writes the novels. As a woman writer De too is against male hierarchy in society. She wants to provide an opportunity to women who were totally obscured demerit by society and its people. Like housewives, models, film stars, business women, old traditional women, working women etc. All women oriented things are focused in her novels.

In this way De works are a projection of modern and mixed with women life. Here the women want to be fully independent in all aspects. In the social milieu the women protest the inequality. That they become equal to men in the bourgeoisie levels of society. De like the modernists is focusing on issues related to women with especial concerns on urban level of life. There are some facts and struggles of women hidden in the capital city life.

### **Women and domestic condition**

In the Indian context and other societies most of issues on women were based on their position in the domestic front. In male dominate societies like the Indian where women don't have any type of satisfaction or liberation because of gender. They were separated and oppressed by others of society. Women living in domestic conditions, from the ancient to the modern eras women fight against their poor conditions at the domestic levels. But often their attempt failed, because the domination of male to female. This common and rarest thing is used for writing literature by many Indian feminists.

They wrote the critical conditions of women in the domestic front. It may be modern women or as rural women, there can be no differentiation between them. They are held in four walls of the kitchen and caring of children and other family members. For them there is no identity.

Even in the modern eras and in high cities, women condition in the domestic front was very pitiable. The new feminists like Shobha De used the same subject in her works. In De's novels women were trying to come out of this domestic culture and they are eager to create a new identity about women, especially those who comes under domestic situations.

In the modern day capitalism the domestic set makes up for the social condition of the economy and women face the pressure. De's novels portrayed the modern and high society women's life. It was also not so happy for these characters, because they are harassed by society and especially by men, it may be father to daughter, husband to wife, boss to women worker, and even as boy friend to lady they interrupt their every step and made them helpless. For instance Karuna, Mikki, Aisha Rani, Malini, Maya etc., were different roles in the novels which can reveal tragically their life as women.

In the twentieth century the life of humans went complete changed by following the many styles of modernity and largely the impact of capitalism. The people of the modern era become so fast and abandoned the old customs and culture behind in history. Due to all these processes in society the women attempted to climb on the top of a successful life with all type of liberty in their hand. Women sought to achieve highly in society, in all the fields which is a great land mark of Indian history, it may be any area of social or fields like science and technology, politically, economically, etc. Every field provides an opportunity to every woman to plead them as equal to men.

Especially by the Feminist literary revolution after independence women were creating awareness in society. The word 'feminism', becomes a weapon of the female revolutionary in modernism. By feminism and its impact women become strong and hold position in society. After a long time struggle of feminists, now in the late modern period women have been gone completely modified by time. The life of women often referred to the domestic levels such as mother, daughter, wife, sister, and as friend she maintains vivid roles of life. Taking care of family, she looks after the relations with love and affection.

Woman sacrificed her happiness for family and for family or society's rules. Women almost all in the Indian context lives with domestic conditions like house cleaning, caring the kids; preparing food, etc are very common for women on the domestic levels.

In the domestic front women's role was very critical because they depended on others like dominating husband or father, sometime mother-in-law. They bound the life of women. For men and women this was the situation in olden times, and in the modern period it became universal situation for them. But now under the influence of twenty century feminist women want to her equal to men and they lead very fast life. They compete in society and win. The very step of women was very challenging, like they fought for their liberty from the house, tried to get good education, and enter the field of profession. Women face troubles.

Especially, if we take an example of the city domestic condition it was fully different from old family conditions. In the society which is in the shadow of capitalism and modernism. It produced urban congestion women became neglected to the dark

interiors of urban apartment buildings. But here among the upper class in multi cities, it was full of mixed culture, consider as culture of consumer and market capitalism gave them great material comfort and happiness.

By feminist revolution women sought education and they lead very successful lives. Those women are not depending but they are independent in all aspects, like finance, marriage, divorce. The all types of friends, education, their habit of shopping, parties, dating, etc are very common for the urban domestic women.

Writers like De in Indian English literature directly discussed these roots of domestic condition in high cities like Bombay. Shobha De gives all the hints of modern domestic life in the metro, De's work itself called as *Mumbai Mirror*, where there is no hide and seek she directly speaks of people, even it may be matters of social or political and world of glamour.

All the works of Shobha De, reflect the women as Indian cultured and under the high domestic condition. Another side she portrayed women as modern figures taking instances of urban life style. The role of women in the domestic levels was very critically evaluated by many writers. Through their revolutionary writings the world of feminism was introduced to society and women get their position in all fields of society. De's views are most similar to all feminists, the stories of women's life which includes many ups and down, success and failure. The women who lived in the domestic conditions they are considered as wage less labor because, there is no identity or liberty for these women.

Everything was depended on usually man. The rapid developments of industry had impact on the lives of working women. Many of them were turned into coolies and sweeper women in the factories because they were not seen as capable of technological

training. Domestic women in the modern eras, who lived in the city they are most powerful in all angles and fully liberated from society. They took the culture and customs as very light. They fight against situations. They lived like what they wished. These are common elements in De's work, for the sake of the self they will do whatever it may be. They attend parties, did high cost shopping had different types of relationships, etc all these become natural things. Not so the rural wives, but still the rural and urban wives remained in the modern times as wage less labor inside the domestic fronts.

Some of the old characters like parents, mother-in-law, grand -parents etc were struck into old type domesticity, that woman should do this and that. The new generation characters did not accept any of these. This is a fixed picture in De's every works. All the domestic characters run behind modernity in their life, especially in the city.

De gives various examples of the modern domestic women such as the well educated house wife Maya a character in *Second Thought*, Swathi and her six friends in *Snapshot*, etc figures of women in high city domestic life but they face tragedy all the time in their life because the matter of Indian culture, the conditions of domestic life, flowing the rules of their old mother-in-law, domination of husbands, etc., are big boundaries for the Indian wives. Unwillingly they welcome it and some time they get rebellious against the system. In the modern domestic situation where male stands for domination and female as inferior it starts from birth of girl child in the family.

Women are harassed in very angle, socially, physically, and by gender so. It is clear that life of domestic women is full of suffering. This is the weapon of all feminist to get against these bad conditions of women in society. De's works also displayed the reality of domestic life of urban women. Human and their relation are live in this area and

to follow the impact of capitalist culture. On another side of social life, families were considered as full of orthodoxy and its effects directly on the women. This is a common issue De opens in her every work. In the modern eras of society women's role was tagged with contradictions. In way of struggle they compete with capitalism. De points this way of living and she makes sure of the dark side of society through her writings; it may be marriage, and extra marital relations, glamour or world of crime, or strange habits.

All this even at the domestic levels became common for women especially into urban areas. As a feminist writer De's concerns are on women characters in her works. She found on upper and middle class women who lead high profile in a big city like Bombay.

These women were more powerful than man in all aspects they fight against situations in their life like successful persons in society. Karuna in *Socialite Evening* was even as well educated woman. She worked as a model. Now she lives, according to the wish of her dominant husband. For him the domestic wife means they should obey mother-in-law her husband and always serve him and the family. The house wife should sacrifice her desires. She went to look after only household things, to keep house clean and clear, provide square meals for the family and as wife she used to dress herself in Indian tradition like sari.

*Socialite Evening* is De's first novel. In this novel De reveals life of women in capitalistic society and their sufferings as daughter and as house wife, the protagonist of novel is Karuna, married a rich business man and settles herself in the Bombay. She had her friend Anjali who gives supports to all dreams of Karuna. Karuna faces difficulty to follow the new culture of Bombay city and listens to her mother-in-law. She feels herself always very bored. Karuna's husband Bunty working in a finance company and always



thinking about money, he is never concerned on his newly married wife Karuna. This thing hurts Karuna she is almost alone in the small house in the apartment. Her mother-in-law advises her to follow culture and rules; that she is dressed in saree and prepare square meals for family, Karuna learnt new styles from friend Ritu, whom she meets in director's party. Karuna's married life turns into tragic because her husband for sake of money or dowry has married her.

After a few years she decides to divorce him but that is also not so easy for her because already two sisters of Karuna had divorced their husbands and they are living separately with their professions. When Karuna thinks about her future she is distressed. She discussed all these things before her friend Anjali and she suggest to her have another relationship with Krish Mukherjee who is Karuna's classmate from college days. Krish belongs to Punjab, his culture is too different. However Karuna starts her illicit relation with Krish.

Finally in the novel Karuna runaway with Krish to Rome and they spend happy time, after that she visits London where her divorced sister Swathi is practicing as doctor. When Karuna turns to India and she meets the film director and continues her relation with him. On another side Karuna's friend Anjali too has her illegal contacts with other males.

Totally, the novel opens the secret of marriages in capitalist society, capitalist culture imposed monogamy and companionate marriages on the spouses. But women find it oppressive even more than the men because their whole life became limited by it. Ever to the end of the novel no female characters are happy about their life partners, instead they search for good companions for their life. Including Karuna and her sisters, her

friends, but it is never possible for them whomever they meet and had the relation they are already rejected by society or by family and all are like criminals, or having more than one wife, or divorced or have bad habit etc, all this is common thing for are those male characters in the novel. Hence the broken marriage of Karuna is well pictured in the novel which indicates the unsafe or unhappy life of humans in the wide context of Indian capitalism and style of modernity. Shobha De gives all the dimension of capitalist society referring to Bombay city, De tries to focus the women and their life in modernity or in capitalism.

### **Women in oppressed system**

It is a fact that women are as oppressed class in almost all societies and especially in Indian context women are second by gender. After independence in India, as feminism and its activities, women position becomes a little improved. The feminist approach to society is to get liberated from all the customs of society and they are equal to male. For the various reasons feminism become stronger especially in the field of literature. Shobha De too stands on modern feminism in Indian English literature.

Her works often based on women portrayed as strong like men in society. In De's fictional world the women were not as oppressed class. Instead they are against the system it may be as cultured or modern daughter, house wife, sister, friend, working woman, film star, etc are vivid stages of woman's life symbolized as they are able to become successful in their life.

In the works of De she pictured women's helplessness and male dominancy. There are many characters look like they are modern in the high urban city like Bombay. But domestic life of the women is fully suffocating to them. They are some -time facing

oppression of society. As female they are oppressed by the male and society, like dominating average Indian husband that he always treats women as object; obeying orders of mother or society his view on women very low all the time.

De's straight writings about personal life of people and dilemma for family relations reflected in the works, women reputation was totally condemned and demolished by author. For instance De's in the sixth story in *Small Betrayals* reveals life of a couple in the city of Bombay.

It was clear to the readers that women even she may be independent economically but she was depending on family, and having lot of attachment to country or the city. Mohan and Manisha both were working. Manisha worked in private bank and Mohan worked in a private company. The husband was looking forward to his future in United States to earn more money and good living. But the wife Manisha was not ready to shift their family to other country. Many times he convinced her and his old mother too advised her that as an Indian wife she should follow her husband's orders.

But Manisha strongly hated to leave the country in the condition that she was to become mother. Husband Mohan treats as her very low, he thinks more of his future and his desires are very important to him. Finally he leaves the city Bombay alone and settled himself in the west. He starts a new job earning a lot of money.

He managed a big house with servants for all his basic needs. Here in India wife Manisha too faces every tragedy of her life and she feels loneliness and very oppressed all the time. One side the human hopes and willingness and another side family, she took a very strong decision that she was not following her husband. Until the end of story Mohan went on waiting for his wife to come to the States with fully decorated house

fulfilling everything in it. But wife Manisha continues to live in the same old house in the city and country, alone with her old mother.

At the end of the story Manisa decides that like her mother she too will live with her new born child and lead her life alone because her life also remains. Her father had lefts mother when she was with child. Now only the two women remain and are waiting for big change in their life.

### **Women and identity**

Women who live in the urban or in the rural they face much suppression all the time. There is no value for any relationships they are bare to this condition. De symbolized here women living in families; for as Manisha, who is a wife. Strong willfulness is a fixed trait as a result in every woman character in all her works, since if they oppose the system they are condemned by society. So, they live blindly in the oppressed system.

The life of women always shows them as suppressed class, this is a truth of all times but no one writer like Shobha De creates awareness in the society that women are equal to men. By her writings De reveals the life of women who were still behind society and sometimes they are winners of society by their rebellious acts.

De's perspective on the life of city has depth. Through her characters she established women as liberated. Most of the novels by De are women centered family, relations and society where she hunts the various characters in it. Women were establishing themselves in the modern world which offered to them every way. De's novels are purely based on this style. The technique which she uses is attractive to the readers because of common language and realistic matters of society especially referring to city life.

Shobha De pictures women as marks of the modern. The role of women is fixed for high professions like modeling, business women, working women, film star, and even as upper class house wives. All these types of characters stand for reality and ruthless life in the big city like Bombay. De goes to the depth of very relation, it may be social or family and woman must react to it in her every step of life.

*Starry Nights* next novel by Shobha De which is on the theme of film world especially in Bollywood of the 1970's and 1980's, the novel opens new world of glamour and glitter in the city Bombay. The protagonist of the novel Aasha Rani originally from south India, her mother took her two daughters to Bombay city and she tries to earn money and fame in Hindi films. Aasha's mother was divorced by husband and they came to Bombay and began contacting with a film maker. Kishen Bhai who is a film producer, photographer, he had wide contacts with all type of film people.

Aasha gives her first photo-shoot to Kishen Bhai, her mother advices her to do all the bad things that whatever he orders to her. Unwillingly Aasha starts all these things in her teen age, Kishan is using all tricks to misuse the innocence of Aasha. She gets chance to act in degrading films and earns money. Her mother becomes happy to see all this; for her only wealth is everything. Aasha's film journey continues as well as her relation too continues with co-stars, directors, producers, photographer, etc all males. Her life goes with many turns and tragedies for sake of profession and money she did everything which was bad for society. But no where she feels satisfied. After a long time as professional film heroine she decides to marry and settle. So, she goes to a Britain and there she met Philip who is a fan of hers. Later they marry.

Aasha has a daughter by him named Sasha. Now Aasha has dreams like her mother. Sasha wants to become a big film star and that she should earn name, fame and wealth. At the end of the novel Aasha came to India with her teenage daughter and starts her search for a chance in films as heroine for her daughter.

Aasha went for her old building in Bombay and contacts all the filmy persons and introduced Sasha to others. Later her father who left Aasha's mother and sister, he joins Aasha family for his rest of life. Finally Aasha is now dreaming about daughter's future and she wants to see her on big silver screen as heroine and earn money, wealth, and fame outside of house. Deevali is celebrated with glittering fire or crackers in the sky which indicates and gives inspirations to Aasha and her aged father who sits on the terrace.

Hence the novel *Starry Night* gives clear image the of film world especially women who are suffocated in that posh sides of society. De openly discussed here everything related to film world in Bombay. From light boy to all directors and hero, photographers, producers, and persons like Kishen Bhai who is always too ready to claim on the innocence and helplessness of women.

Many persons came and disappeared in the glittering world and their life is not good or moral. Like Aasha it may be reality of capitalism or style of modernity in urban life of human. De tries to project the women highlighting them as model or icons of capital world. In every work of De's she discussed the conflicts between the domestic levels and women individuality. Almost all the characters cross these limitations of society with modernity and urbanization, eventhough there are hurdles for the author to explain. She follows it very frequently, like other modern feminist writers.

De focused on the dark side of society, especially of the oppressed class. Even in the high cities of India where women fought for rights and hopes of life. Women marginalization in capitalist society is different from that of old customs and culture.

There are many writings in Indian English which reveals the tragic story of women where they are in the search of individuality. Often the writers included this style into their writing. All waves of feminism too strike on the same type of issues in the world context. In the new society of capitalism women surely stand for her strong life, women are fully focused on themselves; it may be matter of unlawful relations, lesbianism etc all become passions of the capitalist women. Women in capitalism face most of the time the hollowness in character because of the usual male dominancy on them.

They are heart-broken and sick of relations in their life, Every novel of De's comes through the same way of narration, from her first novel *Socialite Evening*, her latest work *Shobha De at Sixty*, her autobiography. In the male dominated capitalist society where woman has no place for her own they must live with the system, even she may be highly qualified or a house wife.

For instance Mikki in the novel *Sisters*, she completed her education in the US. After returning to India she becomes a leading business woman after her father's death. When she marries she is beaten by her husband. Karuna in *Socialite Evening* is one of the young, beautiful and educated lady, from a middle class family of Maharashtra. After her marriage she lives in Bombay where she is treated as an average housewife. There is no satisfaction and happiness in her life.

These are only fictional women life in capitalism, the reality view is too difficult for women to face. There are harassments of all sorts it may be gender violence, dowry,

etc., which is never through from society. In such situations women feel their oppressiveness and helplessness.

The family and relations are pillars of capitalist culture of consumption and it is not based on human value. Women therefore may fail at any time in a capitalistic society. Because everything was dominated by wealth, name, and fame. Here in this competition men and women face trouble, but always men win and women lose themselves. In the capitalist life style women do not want any bounds on their life, they want to be independent in all the aspects. They can do anything for success.

This is one of the common elements in De's novels, like divorce, having contact with under- world, lesbianism, extra marital relations, parties, shopping, everything thing is reflected in Shobha De's novels. According to Shobha De these are vivid faces of women who come under capitalistic society with especial reference to the Bombay city. With their independency women take the wrong way. In capitalistic living that possess women many writers viewed it as only limited to women and criticized her. In De's writing we can clearly understand the life of people in high cities here the women are struck between demands of self and demands of capitalistic life style. As women they are held in the web of society and struggle to come out of all the limitations. They are individualistic figures, because in male dominated society it is normal that they are rejected. So, in the search of their identity and liberation often they failed success.

Capitalistic women almost all struggled in their life and they believed and followed everything extra. It may be money, wealth, marriage or relations they are simply crossing every limits of society. There are so many characters which appear in the novels of De. They are most similar to each other.



The life of people in capitalistic city was always passionate for wealth and other things. Especially De discussed about middle class or upper class people and their life. In the context of the culture she stuffs every character, the women and their characters in the novels seem very strong and well educated because it is one of the essential matter of women in capitalism. In the capitalist life style of women they never hide any ting. They lived with the other side of society boldly.

De's works are based on capitalistic life of common people and their world of fantasy, with especial reference to women. Finding themselves on the dark side of culture by rebellious activities they attempt to establish a new order in Indian society. Like they choose their future and build newness in it. These women do not silently face everything instead they are against the class and conditions of society. De's women characters fully stand on the same point of living; even it may be house wife. So, all women characters in the novels of De are stereotyped, going in the same way of family, relations and life etc.

Women in the modern or capitalist world want their separate identity and liberty. By the impact of capitalism they hope their life too becomes very strong day by day in high cities like Bombay, and De like all modern Indian feminist writers directly linked it to her writings. Through all her women characters De wants to realize the reality of urban or capitalistic city life.

Like so many modern writers De too has concerns on women subject or social issues. She writes what she observes without any hesitation, everything is openly discussed in her novels. It is quite clear under the influence of capitalism women are made not common and they have behind the traditional type.

But they are highly modified in all manners and it is sometimes unbelievable matter that women are like this also, for instance De discusses about lesbianism. The novel *Strange Obsession* is about life in capitalist society. De writes here habits of modernity or culture styles which are not in a good way. The protagonists of the novel are Meenaxi Aiyengar called as Minx, and Amrita Agarwal.

Meenaxi belongs to a rich family, only daughter. Her father is one of government officer and earns lot of wealth in his life. Now all this is handled by Meenaxi. Meenaxi gets a house gifted by her father which was worth lakhs of rupees. She uses this house for illicit activities. Amrita belongs to a middle class family from another city Delhi and she has big dreams of modeling and to become film heroine. She travels alone from Delhi to Bombay city, and one day meets Amrita in an accident.

Minx helps Amrita in every way to become as model because Minx had good contacts of filmy peoples and she had money and power in her hand. Both women characters represent the style of modernity in the context of capitalism.

Minx's intention to help Amrita is wrong because she was impressed by Amrita's beauty and Minx wants to use her as lesbianian. But Amrita hates it of Minx and she tries to convince her many times, but Minx never listens. She dominates on Amrita by using wealth and power, some time she blackmails Amrita. If she rejects her relationship she is going to cut down all her opportunities in the field of modeling and in films. Minx crazed behavior reaches bad ways. For sake of Amrita she murdered Amrita's co-worker and Amrita finally gets offers from advertisement companies, becomes a model and earns money.

Amrita financially helps her family who lived in Delhi and she does not reveal any of her troubles of her career before their family. At the end of the novel Amrita decides to get married and settle. She had an affair with a photographer. Finally they get married and leave holds of Minx. They go for their honey moon, even there also Minx follows them having undergone plastic surgery on her body and face. Again she starts to trouble Amrita and then her husband.

Minx ready to kill both of them but fortunately by the help of villagers and local police Amrita and her husband are saved, later their parents come and join with them. Minx turns insane and she is arrested by the police. Her father came to the spot and speaks with Amrita and others. He says it is punishable thing that his daughter commits not only small mistake so, for that he ask forgiveness for all the deeds of Minx. Amrita reveals the entire story of the modern cultured women Meenaxi before everybody. They feel shamed on Minx and her habits. In the last pages of the novel Amrita becomes mother of a daughter.

Hence the image of modernity in capitalist society and its impacts on human life is clearly discussed by Shobha De. The novel *Strange Obsession* gives the reality of modern style of life where the matters of finance become dominate; before it everything is destroyed.

The character of Amrita shows normal life of middle class women, and Minx character shows modern style in capitalism because by the money and power she did all bad things in her life. De balanced both sides of culture in her every novels it is a common theme.

In another novel Shobha De *Snapshot* discussed about six women who studied from a boarding school in Delhi. All these women characters went to same college and

completed their graduation they are purely modern cultured women in capitalist society. They are liberated about their desires and life. Each of them had different styles. Swathi, Aparna, Surekha, Reema, Rashmi, and Noor these six characters lead in the novel. After completion of their education they settled in different fields and get married but all the women have broken. They are divorced by their husbands for various reasons, their marriage life tagged with wealth and richness.

Swathi character stands for the strong in the novel. She married an N.R.I. a rich man and settled in London. She continues her friendship with all her friends in India and Swathi wants to meet them and arrange party for all her old friends. After she came to India she met her friends and shared their past college day affairs and about their life. It is sure that they all are divorced by husband and continues their life with illicit relations. Swathi shows every interest to listen to their story of past life and secrets. She planned to collect their experience and wants to produce a T.V. serial as well as a film. Finally she invites all her friends to the party and they share their happiness of life, about their past relations with different boyfriends. Actually Reema too wants to collect them. She hides and kept secret recording camera in the flower pot which was kept in the hall. This is observed by another friend and they start quarreling between each others.

Reema again hiding from others collects the video, and they disputed with each other at the end of the novel. All the six women are very different between each other in their styles and living, their self decision is separate. Like all female characters of Shobha De here also these women characters are independent in modern world having all type of bad relations with men and other habits.

This is a very common element in De's work and her created women characters, these women seems to have no concern on human values and they are not bothering

about human relation. The works of De are real projections of capitalistic life where she wants to focus on the milieu of urban Bombay. The numbers of major and minor characters in the novel live with their daily problems, of domestic situations, family relations, the bondages of a husband or a wife, even extra marital relations. De reveals all the way in the novel.

All women characters of De's are viewed in the same tragically conditions. They look forward to their independent women life by leaving all social conditions behind them. So, De works are dedicated only to controversy or most of the Indian critics call her as "queen of controversy". It is sure that her works do not give any type of morality or message to the readers instead they too search for the fault in their life of imitative modernity.

In a way the capitalist women of Shobha De are completely different, they want to be like men in society. Without hesitation of anybody they explore everything before society. This may be a realistic view of city life, but there is no value for women and their gesture. They are always condemned by gender bias and de-merited by the society. De too poses the women and their cheap passion for the physical in a bad way.

In the works of De instead of strong women some of them are projected as weak both mentally and physically, example Maya in *Second Thoughts* and Aisha Rani in *Starry Night*. Women do not have any curb on them but they fall in the web of capitalism, the world of passion and fancy. Broken family and marriage is a common fact for women in capitalism. At the end of the novels De portrayed women can do anything in the modern world.

These are the pictures of capitalism and life of women. By this De dispatches the women into only one shadow called capitalism. Like all the modern feminists, De too stands for women concerns, giving them encouragement she is having a soft corner for her characters. It is clear to every reader that Shobha De is a modern feminist. There are many obstacles for women in their life but they lead with success. For the sake of wealth, power, fame they step in every wrong way of society. This was impact of capitalism on society. In the capitalist style of living women fight against situations. They hate males and the conditions of family, or of the society.

For instance in De's *Socialite Evening* the character of Ritu who is divorced, she don't want any marriage and children, but had relation with other men in society. In the capitalist life especially women are more powerful than any other in society. They are highly educated, working women and business women who were in the leading fields. They face problems and experienced in the modern world, many such issues of women were debated in the novels of Shobha De.

The novel *Sultry Days* depicts the life of middle class women who were in the search of career in high city like Bombay. The protagonist Nisha and another character Deb a males belong to very average family. Both studied in the same college and complete their degree. Now Nisha tries to focus as a mediocre Ad agency employee and Deb becomes a journalist. From their college days they are good friends usually Deb supports the feelings of Nisha. They talk about gossips and family matters of Nisha's.

Deb and Nisha start their different professions and easily they had contact with people like politician, models, photographers, painters, officers including homosexuals and lesbians.

Nisha had an affair with Iqbal who is a famous painter and has a number of illicit relations with women. Deb as journalist he aims to become as local party leader and earn lot of money and wealth so, he begins his contact with other famous party leaders and project them as hero of the city in his papers. The reason is he wants to enter political field by his help.

Even if that politician is very bad and corrupted, Deb ignores it, because he offers lot of money, car and big house for Deb. Both the characters seems selfish with each other because from college days to now Nisha and Deb continued their not only friendship but also their affairs. But for sake of wealth and money they cross all their limitation.

But when the matter is known to Deb that she had affair with a photographer Deb becomes angry on Nisha and they quarrel with each other. Another side Deb visits the house of the politician regularly, there he met a widow Pramila who frequently serves all the guests. And she has surrendered herself to that political leader. She also had a teenage daughter she too serves everything to that family. Deb meets Pramila and listens to her sad story. In the name of help Deb starts an affair with that woman. This matter becomes known to Nisha, she ends her relations with the photographer and convinced Deb to marry her. But Deb was not ready.

Nisha discussed her parental issues with Deb that her father had another wife, which broke the heart of Nisha's mother. The mother of Nisha is all alone in the house and she feels depressed. For that reason all the time she watches T.V. or movies, she never spells anything for husband due to respect for him. Now Deb is not concerned with Nisha. He becomes so commercial and ready to break up relation with her.

Finally Nisha finds another friendship with another man named Lucio, then Anil, and Iqbal. Some of them have habit of music like playing flute etc Nisha goes and joined them to get relaxation from it. Karen another woman character who was as modern house wife she posed in all artificial look for society. She is busy enhancing her beauty in old age, and for her neighbors she wants to look smart and rich all the time. She shows every -thing of the house to everybody.

Vimala and Manjula are two women from the south now living in Bombay, again in search of money. These housewives belong to the modern period, some of them are married and divorced by husbands and take money as their life lead. Vimala and Manjula are bothering about only their bank balance. At the end of the novel Nisha breaks up all her past affairs and now she had contacts of underworld people to earn money. Yeshwantbhai who is don of all these criminal activities in the city, Nisha reveals the fact of crime world before Deb and he published it in his papers.

For this reason Yeshwantbhai starts to hate and wants to kill Deb and as well as Nisha. Finally Deb escaped from him and he warns Nisha to leave his contact. But Nisha her works continues. Both Deb and Yeshwantbhai die in a shootout. Hence again they have broken relations and De tries to discuss it in this novel.

In the late modern society India women were independent because they lead in a good Indian manner for society and are rebels. With the touch of feminist literature women position was slowly changing in the world and in cities. Women were becoming much stronger about their life and decision. Again the same characters as above mentioned like Malini, Mikki, and so, they are models of city women in the works of Shobha De.



De directly gives support to all these types of women in her works by this way of writing De creates a new and different view on society as well as for the women side. No question if it were men or women. Because De offered equal rights to all women characters in her novels, it may in be matters of marriage, divorce, living with others in extra relations. These are some bold steps of women in capitalistic life. Women in capitalism have good positions after a long feminist struggle in society. They are ruling their own life without any hesitations of capitalist culture or any other things. De like modern feminists gives a good focus on these personal matters.

There are many Indian writers who are used to discussing contemporary problems in their writings. By this they try to give justice for all third world people especially women and children. By including their personal experiences writers try to give awareness to society and especially on women-centered issues. In the capitalist life style for women it is too suffocating, they are not fully protected from all evil things of the outer world like crimes which pushes the women into bad ways. Just for wealth and name sake women follow that and it is negative shades of their life. De's few works debates on this also.

In the De's fictional world women are protagonists. De portrayed them as real hero of their own life. That they are very independent, confident, even well educated and they can cross all the levels of society and its structure.

By writing about the present world situations De creates newness in the literary field. Without any social frames for her writings it was something beyond of all the social frames. From the various characters and using local language she becomes very near to the readers. All sorts of women characters come in De's works, but they are surely living

in capitalist society and they are as if in the world of capitalist fantasy where they are queens themselves.

De as modern feminist she automatically provides all types of freedoms to her women. And men are as victimized in the author's view. It was true that Indian men how they rule on women, this is a decade story in literature. And De tries to give an extra touch to the same issues of women in social as well as in family conditions. Her novels are good instances of capitalist life of people. It turns many times in to ups and downs, women were shadows of this change in their life. The swift growth of society in urban areas which offers many ways for women to become as strong in all situations and De's characters well catch up the chance in their life and become as successful women of capitalism.

The series of Shobha De's novels were totally based on the commercial world of Bombay and she views the society in a very different angle. What the reality of the high life she poses here, by pointing the women as center of her theme. This introduced the vividness of capitalist life of people, where women are as dominated and fight against the present society.

Like all the feminists De too takes the side of women oppressed by the system especially in the family conditions. They create a new world of their own where they achieve everything by short ways of success.

The world of capitalism and women are tagged with each other in modern society, which can't be separated from each other. By imitating high kind of liberty so, they are new women according to the author. De not only focuses on outer world but she provides dominancy for inner feelings or urges of women's mind: They are in the search of self

identity in such a capitalist world. The word capitalism is especially dedicated to the middle class in the works of De.

The narrow streets and crowd of people at other side and woman should live in the four walls of house. Sometimes it was in apartment or sometimes it is set in high building, but nothing much different for those women characters because they are suffering inside for the bias of gender. The novel *Second Thought* reveals the life of a house wife who struggled in capitalistic society. Protagonist of the novel is Maya, she is from another city and belongs to a different culture that is of Calcutta. Maya is young and educated woman and she starts her career in the field of fashion. Maya's family is orthodox her parents arrange her marriage to another city family that was in Bombay.

Maya gets married to a rich business man from Bombay named Ranjan. She had lot of hopes but unfortunately that husband and mother-in-law are money minded. Maya suffers inside. Even there is no companion for Maya to spend her whole day time. The husband becomes dominating on her everything handled by him including remotes of T.V. and A.C, even the land phone are too kept locked from Maya.

If she wants to spend her time it should be with mother-in-law playing chess and listening to rules of her family. The husband too suggests Maya that she follows his old mother. Maya's life become miserable she cannot express her feelings before her husband or before the parents, sometime she faces trouble by neighbors because of her different culture, from dressing to food. Hence the married women life in capitalist society with modernity goes on with twists and struggles. Maya begins to have friendship with the neighbor a young boy Nikhil who was studying in college. She becomes happy to talk with him. Later they share their feelings to each other.

Nikhil supports the feelings of Maya and tries to take advantage of Maya's helplessness about loveless husband and the old mother-in-law. They become very close to each other and start to have a illicit love relation. They go for parties and trips to wonderful places, but continued to hide it from her husband.

At the end of the novel Maya is surprised because her lover boy Nikhil ready for an arranged marriage with another girl. Maya lost her all dreams about another life. With smiling face she enters in kitchen her prepare food for her mother-in-law and her husband. The life of Maya is instance of modern women who is turned into a house wife. She is forced to give up her capitalist aspirations of becoming a model; Shobha De provides the image of house wife in this novel who is eager for relationship, but capitalist husband eager to earn money. The dilemma of mixed cultures with a commercial touch for human relations De gives good example that is life of Maya in this novel. All the protagonist of Shobha De belongs to modern culture. De uses culture which is impacted by urbanization in capital cities of India. Women characters stand for such instances in her works.

Hence Shobha De reveals the story of modern women in the search of their comfort and looking for finance and human relations which all time turns in different way of life. The instance Maya and other women who live with vivid styles in capitalist society but their target seems only one that is to earn money. The characters of De are always tied to capitalistic society which can bring them economical growth and liberty, gender equality etc.

As in the novel *Second Thoughts* and *Sisters* De gives many more instances for this in her works, in the capitalist world women are fixed for all the faults of life. The

women of capitalism are majorly rich and high class but, all kinds of women characters are portrayed in the same direction of society.

In capitalist society sex, crime, lesbianism, and illegal relations etc such things are become more common to people of the city. De uses this element in her novels. All the women characters were differently pictured and these are the realistic styles of living especially in the context of Bombay according to De. De's works stands in the form of modern society; by giving support for all female characters she focused on urban living. In the capitalist style of living, where women are as objects in all angles of society, they give a touch for common things.

Every character of Shobha De stand to the same final judgment in their life: in the world of capitalism they are dominated and fully liberated from all bounds of society. Women of capitalism are not common their lives differ from one to another. Capitalism very deep rooted in modern Indian society; from food to all needful things we depend on capitalism.

De pictures this in a realistic way: the humans in the web of social relations commit a number of sins in name of capitalism and they reject moral values. De's perspective on capitalist society is one sided, that it was surly the negativity of humans and their web of relations. There is no disguise in this she expressed it directly to the readers. Perhaps this was why Shobha De's works sold like hot cake in the market and also many critics reward Shobha De's works.

It is the passion of every woman to become independent and earn fame, especially the desire on wealth. It is this that takes the bunch of De's characters into the world of capitalism where they demand equality against all gender bias. Capitalism takes many

modern turns in it and brings new life for humans and women are easily attracted towards it. These are some instances of capitalism and woman life with especial reference to Shobha De novels, where De portrayed women vivid faces and ups and downs of their life a fact of urban bourgeois life in high cities.

These urban sectors fully depend on capitalist economy and women become part of that. With high cultured society capitalism offers many things to common people, life and growth. This is the total picture we can study in De's work; as a modern feminist she approaches these levels of feminist issues in her all works.

The works of De has provided vivid faces of women who lead their life in capitalist society with lot of struggles. These women are fully liberated in all ways and they attempt every step of right and wrong. According to their own wish they become rich and earn name and fame in the life.

The feminist women were very rebellious and strong than others. They are not depending on others; they live as single or as single parent to their children or as divorced, business women, model, and even De include film stars and their life also in it.

Every woman character of De with feminist ambition wants to be the real hero of capitalistic life style, because they are in the shelter of urban society like Bombay and thinks only on economic status. It may be sisters, working wife, or two good friends, think they of only the self and go in the same direction. They never stop, against all the system they raise the voice and very soon they quit from that life according to their own wishes.

In the modern world the term capitalism which widely covers the society and the urban market. And women become part of these fronts as if they are more solid. All the

women characters of De's were projections of modern or capitalist society; from their dressing, food, habits, to living independent is impact of capitalism in society.

Feminism and its impact take women in the new world of capitalism which is glittering and glamorous for women. In the glittering world of capitalism women are easily attracted and involve themselves in newness. And those women figures are never concerned on normal or common realities or relationships. Because De used to discuss broken relations and often the case of divorce or having extra marital relations, or other kinds of illicit relation such as lesbianism all of which make up their social life. The impact of late capitalism, in these field women are the main victims of all marital relation. Shobha De openly discussed such issues and the lives of women in capitalism.

### **Conclusion**

This chapter has looked at middle class Indian women's resistance to the inequalities of capitalism: their exclusion from the sphere of money and power, professions; their domestication within the private sphere of home and family. These middle class women of De's novels struggle against these exclusions. They find it as limiting their existence. It is argued that these struggles are expressed in terms of feminist ideals such as identity, self expression and self-realization, achievement of power and freedom, economic status and empowerment. No doubt these ideals are realized in the forms that capitalism gives us in contemporary times: wealth, economic power, professional power and power of capitalist media. Thus De's novels emerge as feministic vision.

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*Chapter - 4*

*Women in the Indian Urban and  
the Professions*



## **Chapter-4**

### **Women in the Indian Urban and the Professions**

In India many capital cities have come to be which are full of population. High growth of science and technology were seemed as common feature of every high city like, Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, and Hyderabad. The cities capitalized and modernized economically, people are attracted towards it. A number of cities beckon them with hopes of opportunity for growth, economical and social success.

In these multi growth cities as we know people are living marginalized lives in competitive ways. Many Indian writers have taken use of this urban life into their writings. The modern Indian feminist writer Shobha De writes from Bombay. De is purely feminist because she portrayed Indian women as public figure.

All the novels of Shobha De stands with the marginalized life of Indian women, in high cities like Bombay which De refers as 'glittering world'. The city full of crowd and fastness and their women were struggling to get proper positions; De's women characters always give a message of urban life. The common people who have passion of life they move towards city especially to Bombay where no security of life exists. During the modernizing period the status of women was variously changed, it was time of the rise of the middle class woman, caged in the role of middle class housewife and a consumer life style where money is always wanting.

People of Indian society were tempted at richness of consumer life style which is an affect of modernization. Women have separate view on society. It may be cultural, family, tradition, and their different professions. Many women writers and feminist

struggled to improve the dark side of society where women identity was fully negotiated with it. Feminist efforts and literary movements became steps of successful women in India.

The urban quite attracts people into charming life. Many of people and women migrate to city life. In Bombay itself women struggle a lot to get wealth, power, name and fame. There are many instances of these issues coming in the novels of Shobha De. Women's want to reach a successful life was obstructed by the demands of their gender roles in capitalist society. So urban life especially in Bombay, a glittering world many women are rebels and down into different ways to earn name and fame. They come to particularly the field of Hindi film and they hoped to become great stars. In these particular situations women go with vivid sides of her life. De opens all the secrets of urban life it may be of film stars or common family house wives where they are suppressed.

The urban is not only a matter of good and glittering world but it has its other side also, like crimes, poverty; lumpiness, glamour of city. Women go in the wrong way; De focused on all these matters in her novels, addressing city life and women. In postmodern India the growth of fields like modernism, consumerism, capitalism and globalization includes in urban areas where humanity advances. Contemporary Indian society displays a wide view of capitalizing country in all ways, where poverty, illiteracy, hunger, congestion etc may be seen alongside consumerist excess.

Urban capitalist life moves women's life making her as modern house wife completely dominated as mother, or as daughter and sister. But their resistance to it takes the deism to be business woman or consumer women hence various faces can be found in

globalised cities. Thus in modernization and urbanization process, women have started to play major role in middle class, because she faces a many struggle in life. In middle class life women don't have type of liberty, or choice. The gender female considered as oppressed class specially in middle class.

In the fields of work woman was critical, because she was never treated as equal to men for labor. This creates gender issues in the life of people. After long struggle of feminists women got empowerment in the present. Women are recognized in the public sphere and the views are changing. Urban women involve as public figures such as film stars, and in various professions as journalist, technician, scientist, doctor, etc areas were Indian urban women have put their land mark of history.

### **Indian Urban Life**

In the Indian economy and social system, the middle class share a way of life. Women in urban life often identified as house wife in the middle class families. Almost all women are bound as house keepers in the family. Especially in middle class family in urban cities where women considered as objects. Feminism in the twentieth century raised its voice against the exclusion of women from the economic changes that were occurring due to advancing capitalism.

Subsequently, women now may be found in work place as labor or as workers in many different fields. Urban life begins with high population, and growth of economical status. Hence women are stepping out in their urban life of such as getting education, liberty even in middle class families in India. From 1947 onwards the vast developments in all aspects in the society has took major role in class stratification of Indian society rich class or high class and middle class. There is no equality between them even though similarities can be found.

Especially in Indian social structure of high cities like Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta etc where large number of middle class families take shelters in the name of capitalism and consumerism. From the very moment of development the middle class people try to occupy a place of progress. But often fail because of lack of economic power and identity. The middle class people don't have identity in their style of living and power of money to count for society.

Whatever the developments that comes and goes even no one can even try to change the whole system of hierarchy in modern India. The class people dominate by power and money. A number of families are facing a number of problems of power and money to hold positions in society. In a city like Bombay it is a common scene for every people thus to struggle to get a good hold on money. So, automatically many evil activities arise in the society. For this reason crime rate has increased year by year. The people of middle class have no satisfaction of their life, concerned as dull and hopeless.

The people who lived in urban middle class most of them live consumer type and capitalistic style, especially women in urban have played various roles, which includes capitalism and consumerism.

In modern India most families are patriarchal even in urban, where male as the dominated the capitalism and women are totally without economic power. The domination of male on female goes like a chain system. The urban woman sometimes faces these types of basic problems in her life such as total dependency on men in the family. Middle class and urban life, capitalism and consumerism, different professions, are the faces of a developing country from which they are excluded by imposition of the domestic companionate marriage.

Before independence in India the condition of poor women was so bad. Less economical status creates a large poverty in Indian society. Again women become victim of these events and she totally considered as oppressed class. Many examples stand for these observations. Industrialization, globalization, technology, modernization, etc. improve the society. The important thing is development has taken life into a progressive path. Yet the entire generation leads urban life where male domination never ends. This type of urban life collapsed the equality of healthy society; it was deep rooted in Indian society.

The basic needs like food, shelter, and water was not completely provided to all types of people due to this reason in high cities and slum areas have arisen. Often women face failure and faced a number of events which come across as so many dangers for women who live in the dark side of urban life. Some time there is no security for life, especially when women out of poverty take up lone jobs in big industries and offices.

Every woman become part of this system and this is most commonly seen in urban life. Urban women want to improve their economical status by vivid ways in society. If the woman were educated they would get wider opportunities. If the women are not educated surely they face many problems.

Modern Indian society is a platform of the poor and the rich. Many Indian writers are focused on this hierarchy, system. The life of middle class and their issues are topics modern writers give full awareness to the society. In multi cities often hunted by poverty where women are as suppressed. The work place for women includes all problems. De directly writes about the life of middle class women of rich women life. She pictures vivid views of urban life of women. She looks at the urban life in different angles and not like a common writer who discuss only the issues of women life.

She opens all the hidden secrets of urban life, where the people blindly run behind money. Some time it reaches the crimes, like kidnapping, and murder where women become a part of this bad side. In De's works she discussed the same thing; the one good example is Aasha Rani in *Starry Night*. The character Aasha Rani belongs to the middle class who wants to achieve her dream as famous Hindi film actor in Bombay. The condition of middle class is most reflected in this novel by the character of Aisha where as rich class women character focus on high life, wealth, power everything in another character Meenaxi in *Strange Obsession*.

The conflicting characters of both rich and poor are well discussed in the novel by De. For sake of money, power, name and fame Aasha Rani in *Starry Nights* uses her sexuality by the support of her mother's choice.

The mother wants to see her daughter as film star and to earn the money, wealth when it is impossible her mother forced her daughter into bad ways to get her a chance in Hindi films. Aasha Rani was misused in film industry for sake greedy nature on wealth she treated as low graded heroine like she gets an opportunity as heroine for blue films.

Amrita Aggarwal in novel *Strange Obsession* young lady in the search of her modeling career she travels to Bombay from Delhi. She become successful and begins her friendship with mysterious women called Minx. Minx offered many chances for Amrita in her modeling field, she introduced many people to Amrita but later her attraction towards Amrita turns into lesbianian. Minx's full name is Meenaxi Ayengar, only daughter of police officer in Bombay there is no doubt her father saves lot of money, wealth for her. The character Minx depicts the high life and modern culture in novel. Such as she has addiction of drug and underworld crime activities with many men, she is lesbianian in character etc instances are confronted in life of urban especially with women.

All the incidents that take place in the novel *Starry Night* and *Strange Obsessions* of Shobha De it is clear the life of urban women, the effect of economical status, the condemned life of the people. Many women are part of this major problem. It may be daughter, housewives, mothers, or working woman all come through these tragical events in their life. Especially women are directly affected by the hierarchy of wealth, because living in a bounded society there is no opportunity to express hopes towards society. They are fully bound by culture, competition and are dominated by men. Sometime woman sacrifices her life for sake poverty in life.

Women of poorer middle class live a life of critical level especially in the Indian context. They have no identity, liberty, nothing like common facts of life in society. They reached the very condemned condition of family or outside it because of gender bias. Woman was targeted for everything like good and bad, she reaches every step of ups and down of society. In the urban side if the women have wealth, power she is winner of life.

For instance character of Alisha who is intelligent daughter of Harilal she and her mother are anxious that no matter would marry her, Alisha in jealous of Mikki when she married.

It may be in any other ways, almost all the urban women who live in high cities with wealth they have some extra power in society. Sometimes liberty misuses them usually they go to party, clubs, boy- friends, shopping and purchase valuable things, and going out these are the common features of rich women in urban life. Another side, the life of poor middle class they just hangover their life between wealth and money, because for sake of money women went out in different professions like house maids, office workers, in the field of education, and in business as secretaries and typists.

Places where women step up to improve their financial matter and life style in urban life. According to history of India, the country has more poor people and less rich people from ancient time to modern age. Shobha De gives all the freedom to women especially who live in urban. Her women are quite different from other writer's. These women are mirrors of urban life. In her all works De discussed the same type of women life. Many of them are all the real figures of urban society especially in city like Bombay. Where conflict of life of poor and rich, which has become part of Indian life a new face of women in this various novels in the 20th century. The middle class life still is separate and we can see many waves of generation struggle in it.

Shobha De's women characters are purely realistic to modern society. They are more liberated, passionate, desirable about life, orthodox or daring. This figure indicates the urban life. In all the works De portrays women as show piece of modern urban.

Urban women who take all liberty, they become more successful, they do not give any importance to relations, it may be parental, husband, friend, or sisters, accepting money and power for these women makes life and joy. For instance Maya's mother-in-law in *Second Thought*, an old woman who supports her only son by earning wealth, and money, she never is concerned of the new married son and his wife. In the novel, even though Maya is well educated but her married life becomes so dull and miserable in a city like Bombay.

Maya husband's family was located in a cottage apartment. There are no good neighbors. All the time Maya should obey the rules of mother-in-law and dress like pretty woman and square the meals on the dining table, this is the daily life of Maya. It becomes



more boring for her then she met with a young boy called Nikhil who lived next door. He supports Maya's feeling. Thus relation becomes too close. But later he marries a girl his mother chosen for him.

At the end of the novel Maya goes with a long silence and smile on her face into the kitchen. Maya was the picture of Indian urban house wife, who lives in the dark shadow of disappointed life. No matter of cultural liberty, they are put in family like a caged bird and this is common scene of every Indian house wife, where husband and men were dominating and women are suppressed class.

Women are the main root of the system. She is the suppressed class. Women have to live within domestic levels, and to take care of her family, the first duty of middle class women, even if they live urban or in rural she give-up all her hopes and happiness for the critical poverty in the family. Often poorer middle class women have no freedom at all in their life because of the system of patriarchy. In rural as well as in urban, the same position of family we can see in the Indian context. Patriarchy dominated society and women are not getting proper education or freedom. In modern days also a number of poor middle class families which make up the Indian society, women struggle to get success in the urban competitive world. They work out of domestic rules, taking high risk in every step and equal to men. In purely the urban areas women work in hard levels, she manages her profession and family.

Many challenges and changes created by women in the urban. They run behind money, success, very fast life by which all conditions of domesticity automatically broke down. There is no such value for relationships or friendship. People strictly go with consumer life and capitalistic living.

In pre-independence India the ratio of literacy was very less it was limited to a particular group of people and for males. The female fixed their place in households. A number of women struggled to come out of domestic condition and hoped for good education. So, finally they decided for special classes in night time especially in rural areas where as in urban condition also system of education was strictly restricted to particular group of people like those who have wealth and freedom in urban India. Before independence and industrialization, globalization, the system of education was very rare for women. Some aristocrat families allowed women to go out and get good education.

In late modern India education plays a major role. People have started getting educated even in small villages women also educate because of the impact of urbanization. The feminist writings become instrument for society it awakes the women who considered as suppressed and condemned class. Then they start educating women also in domestic level and at the society level.

In the various fields women are treated as equal labor to men in the modern eras. Urban women and middle class women find their opportunity in society for equal position as labor. In the earlier stages of capitalism women were not consider as equal to men in many work places they did their hard work but for less wage. Even child workers in fields were not getting equal wage. This hierarchy of wages affected the common people.

During the Nineteenth century therefore wide spread issue was a gender bias or inequality in wage system. Women worked in various work fields like different factories, on lands, as house maid, in coal mining, etc places where women and children worked as labor. They worked in many hard fields but for very less wages and they are considered

like slaves in the dominant hands. In various other countries also the wage system bias on gender was widely spread. In Indian levels of society women were harassed by males too, before independence the condition of working women was critical they were divided by gender.

Women rebelliously by feminism changed their position in society as well in working places. Many revolutionary modifications created a wide way for women it may be work place labor or economical independence. By the wide changes in society as above said many people migrated to different cities and find their economical progress.

In Indian urban society especially in modern times, there is a wide chance for women in working fields to have equality but even if women got equal pay, they often faced with insecurity. Shobha De reveals these sides of labor of women in urban areas, working women and their life and struggles in late modernity especially in the glittering city of Bombay.

De's women characters were all time modern figures of Indian society. They do not attempt of any risk and earn a lot of money and wealth by even wrong way. In domestic condition especially middle class there is no chance for women to get liberty from economical holdings, because once again issues of gender become a big wall for every Indian woman. It may be rural side or it may be urban side of living, women are considered as wage less labor in domestic life.

But modern feminists protested at this hierarchy of wages and inequality of society. De creates women as modern figures where they are fully liberated in all aspects of society. De's novels prospect the readers in different view, that women also an able person to achieve something in life financially. All Indian women climb over the wall of

modern patriarchy and the reach place of success. Urban women are instances of this. Now women want to be considered as equal to men and have their equal share of progress in capitalism. With women labor come the growths of progressive society. Work places are an identity of urban life in the modern times. Many of literary works debate on these issues of work place.

In many parts of India urban development has created wide changes in life of the common people. The urban domestic was typical ideology, where women independence was very high, even if in the limitation of capital and consumerist ways in that the roles of women are variously different within the capitalist arenas. In the matter of the wealth it has created a wide gap between middle class and rich class especially between men and women because women are treated as slave for gender.

Capitalism has brought way of development but the condition of poor people somewhere not completely improved because now in modern times also we can see slums, very poor people do not have any good facility, they are uneducated, and are unhealthy. Many Indian writers are focused on these situations of women and their issues in their writings. The suppressed class in society their recognition was hidden in the name of culture and tradition. The divisions of labor into two labors one who works in out-world, and another who fixed for household labor considered as women.

### **Sexism in the Urban**

Patriarchy has existed in several forms since the dawn of civilization. According to Engels the origin of male domination and female demerit is the direct outcome of accumulative wealth and the origin of domestic family. The exclusion of women from profit and other social goods is directly method of capitalism in its most primitive form.

Urban women today often condemn the system of patriarchy and its rules because they are getting educated, equality in all aspects. The dominancy of male to female was like a cycle in the life of women it may be in rural and in urban. Only few of them come out of these rigidity but most of women are still suffering.

In urban now day's influence of patriarchy becomes less because question of gender identity was very less in importance. Even though in middle class families it continues there are many instances before us, in novel *Second Thought*. It shows the vividness of Indian patriarchy system. Maya was quite intelligent lady in college. After completion of degree her father forcefully arranges her marriage with another aristocrat family. Unwillingly she gets married. Married life is also a failure. She never complains before her father about her life. Maya obeys the rules of family and accepts the system of patriarchy.

In the Indian urban the condition of marriage has become oppressive to women, because of fast life and progressive education. Urban women have a lot of choice in her life, especially they who live in high cities like Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, etc where women desire greatly to be fully independent about their life. Urban women are found to be very liberated. They want to have choice of their life. Often urban women hate marriage because they have power of money and wealth in their hands.

They use it to get divorce and go to party have boyfriends, and dating. These are the common issues of urban women. Shobha De discusses in all her novels modern India marriage and the life of women. This is one of common scenes in urban Indian women's life. Women seek liberty about her life and they can lead the life without husband. Often working women, divorced women were facing these situations in urban.

In Indian context urban life is like stardom for common people who have more hopes, dreams about their life in city even if it becomes very hard to reach. There are many ways created to reach the top of success, like different profession and migration. They improve socially, economically, culturally, etc, platform for women to plead their talent before the world of consumerism.

### **The Role of Domestic in Urban**

Women in urban domestic are facing typical problems like they work outside of family and inside of family called as working women. Women in nuclear or in joint families are neglected by gender bias, and have faced through struggles of domestic level. Sometimes it turns into violence on women or on the children. Again a dominancy of male or female is created. In domestic condition women playing variable positions in urban life, which is a critical way for them. Women as labor for wages in work place but at the domestic a woman was wage-less labor. She has to take all her family and it was following different dimension of oppressed life. Especially in the system of modern patriarchy women are like slaves of family even in modern in Indian context the domestic condition depends on male dominancy. Women are dedicated to reproduction and as housewife this limitation of society is a way of life.

Shobha De as a modern feminist writer tries to produce a clear image of domestic women in Indian society where women lose their identity. De discusses about familial status of urban, women. They hold different positions in urban domestic condition because often they are educated, working women who maintain their personal and outside life. Shobha De's women characters are very bold in this case, they are leading women and successful working women. Some time they cross all limitations of society at

the domestic level. In all her novels De pictures women in urban domestic as having no limits. Many characters of Shobha De novels reveal the domestic condition of women in the Indian context. The domestic woman is considered as oppressed class in our society where they don't have choice of change.

Women are facing critical situations like physical, and psychological, violence. There is a great issue for domestic for women. The impact of modernization on Indian cities and has intensified the women's domestic condition. In domestic life of women are with many ups and downs. They are figures of the contemporary Indian society because in Indian family system often male considered as dominate. In domestic level also various changes take place in modern India. Women look up to companionate marriage and to love of husband exclusively. Their dependency on sexual love is brought out in De's characters, who crave passionately for their spouses indulgence but are wretched for it.

### **Capitalism and Domestic Conditions**

The Domestic condition is right way to understand capitalism because in the urban areas women follow the way of capitalism where they are fully liberated, by the attraction of consumerism and show biz.

In late capitalist society wives reflect modernity life like they think economic dependency on husband is their right. The men have to maintain the whole economic family especially wife and her bank balances. For the domestic wives in capitalism everything is based on the commercial for them, it is brand name for them. De uses this same situation in her novel *Snap Shoot*, at the middle and end part of the novel she introduced the characters of two domestic wives under the shadow of capitalistic society

named Manju, and Karen both are modern house wives in high city like Bombay but they are bothering all the time about their bank balance that it should be handled by their husbands.

The working husband has to maintain the financial problem of family even though it is unthinkable that they take care of the children. Manju a woman character of modern culture and always worried about her fat body, beauty and wealth. She spends most of her time in beauty parlor to show herself as more beautiful, she gets married two times in her life. Manju is not concerned on family matters but it is part of her financial support by her husband.

Apart from these two domestic characters of De she talks about Vimala from Madhya Pradesh, who is also domestic wife in city she is only bothered about her financial matters more than Manju. The matter of Karen is something different that she is a divorced woman and searching for a new mate for her financial benefit.

Not only in the one novel but also in every novels of Shobha De shows women sometime happy but most of the time suffering, there are many instances stand for capitalism and domestic conditions of Indian society and how humans react to this.

On the other side in novel *Snapshots*, the story of six girl friends from school days to their present life in cities shows the clear idea of capitalism. They are all divorced and lived with illicit relations it is very natural for those women. They thought only of the life of capitalism and domestic condition of their circumstances. De's novels depict like this capitalistic domesticity. Hence the domestic situation is based on economical status not on moral or ethical. For the capitalistic domesticated women life is game of money. They constantly lose their originality. Everything is like artificial and fake relations. De represents this hollowness of relations between men and women in her novels.



In the domestic conditions not only women go with vividness but men too are part of it because of their money mindedness. De gives good instance for this type of male ego. Ranjan husband of Karuna in the novel *Socialite Evening* here he fixed his target to earn money. For this even he neglected the newly married wife Karuna, he has married her only for money. But still she waits for his good relation with her.

Often the women of capitalism drive on four wheels car wandering through city streets they visit places which are more glittering for them. The domestic, has offers to both the genders. They both have equal rights to the good and the bad in family levels in capitalism. In capitalism a number of characters of Shobha De fail a happy life of marriage. They become as vamps playing the game of sex and money. In De's fictional world their liberty has no limitations they are changing their life partners just like changing their dresses. Mikki in the novel *Sisters*, suits very best for this. Mikki who is big business icon's only daughter has property which comes from her father. The parents died in air crash and Mikki leads her father business in a well progressive way.

She was well educated from the States. Another side her sister Alisha after her education falls in love with a Navin who wants to marry Mikki (p. 34 of novel). Alisha has better business sense than Mikki. But she suffered from insecurity.

Mikki and Alisha the two step sister in the novel *Sisters* are with different natures because for Alisha marriage is safer for life times financial security but for Mikki marriage means nothing a bound for woman, and she purely hated the system of marriage.

Both of their married life is not satisfied. Mikki to marry and settle in life but she is not ready for that, finally at least for sake of society she approves marriage and began

searching for a mate. These characters live in the city and follow capitalist life style like they go for parties with ex-boy friend. They visit pubs and bars commonly. Both the sisters have their one good companion named Navin. Mikki engaged with Navin but Navin's mother stops their marriage. Mikki was so upset for the breakup but Binny Malhotra helps her to recover from it and proposed to her.

Mikki gets married to Binny Malhotra also a business man. But soon his real nature comes out. He beats her to get her all property. Mikki becomes so upset for her marriage with wrong man, and further she comes to know that he was already married and having a daughter and son from the first wife, Urmi. This really shocks Mikki. All her ideas of marriage come true in her and she shares her feelings and sufferings with her sister Alisha and Navin. Mikki divorced her husband Binny the greedy minded. She separates herself from him and starts living alone again and continues her father's company. At the end she contacts the ex friend Navin and goes with him.

Alisha then had affair with Dr. Kurien who saved her when she attempts suicide and now Alisha goes with the doctor for her higher treatment at Geneva country. After all this both sisters Alisha and Mikki leave India and settled themselves in another country and both divorced from their husbands. The marriage life in capitalism like this ends in tragedy.

### **Women and Consumerism**

In the modern twentieth century the vast developments in all fields like science technology, literature, and new inventions take into a path of consumerism. Especially urban life depends on consumerism and capitalism. Humans advance on these terms in society. Women were the first to identify with these changes and the generations turn to a

wide wave of success. Consumer lifestyle gives women more empowerment in society. They are idealized as gender models. Women reach for urban living in a struggle for identity.

In the modern eras life begins with consumer things especially in urban levels people goes with consumer goods. Technical and scientific goods advances and covers every where of Indian society. Consumer that is fast moving and progressive indicated a healthy life of humans, women is part of consumer life in urban. They fall in a web of modern consumer life. Women are working in all social fields. The identity of women's completely changes.

Shobha De is also focused on consumer life of middle class Indians. She gives many instances in her writings of the characters like business women or modern housewives are current examples of consumer life. women who consider consumer lifestyles, they go for parties, shopping, moving from country to country, having their boy friend, go for club and most greedy for wealth and power their liberation. These are the terms of consumer life and are women. Indian society is now considered as progressive, by consumer goods available freely in most of capital cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, etc, places were consumerism life is common for everyone.

In addition to urban we can see now multi cultural milieu. This is traced to the impact of globalizing country. The urban multi culture sometime melts into one field called as urban. Shobha De concerns on the influence of multi cultural life on urban women, where women own their identity separately. They are living in high cities under the influence of the various cultures which reflects its own high culture of urban. This multi culture commonly manifests in turns of high consumerism.

Shobha De as a writer native to the glittering city of Bombay gives many instances of its consumer life, especially women's role in the city. Women who struggle as daughter, mother, wife, sister, friend etc have different roles in urban and in its consumer life.

In consumer life the identity of women was again suppressed in somewhere, they are not fully independent and equal in male dominated society. Woman is like an image of exchange in consumer city. The life automatically turns into consumer style of living. Even in the domestic levels consumer things were common, like television, smart phones, computers, vehicle etc. This is the impact of consumerist life in Indian society.

Women follow consumer style of living where they have liberty, power, and gets opportunity. In urban India women enter fast sectors and its shabby side where women are treated as things of entertainment like in disco, bars, and pubs, in the hands of underworld criminals. This is impact of consumer and capitalistic life style. In consumer life style there is no value for relationships it may be parental relation, husband wife relation, *Sisters*, friends etc the all type of relations are dominated by only wealth consciousness.

All these pictures of character relations modern life and its impact are beautifully discussed by Shobha De's in her all the novels. For instance, Swathi and her six girl friends, in the novel *Snapshots* De wrote on the life of women as consumer. They studied in Delhi boarding school, Swathi is one of strong character she treats life very easy, lightly. Later they all get married and settled in different places, but only Swathi goes with her husband.

After a few years they all divorce their husbands for vivid reasons. Swathi too leaves her husband and buys property.

These are some common examples of consumer life of women in urban areas. Shobha De introduced a vividness of urban life effectively.

### **Women and Modern Capitalism**

In modern capitalism women strive to be independent from economical issues in urban life. They are attracted to the urban life for providing equalization for men and women. But such middle class family in urban face male domination. De's novels throw light on these struggles of middle class life in urban. Her characters want to be fully independent about economic and for it they become business women, working women, film stars etc.

In their attempt to hold their economic status without shame they chose after wealth, power and sex in city like Bombay. They go any ways to reach their success. The glittering world of Bombay opens all sides of society where the role of women was common. Women involve in underworld and criminal activity for sake of wealth and shabby side of city. The family and husband also can prove as hurdles in this struggle.

Hence, a woman loses her own identity in a marginalized life. Often women become failure in urban to improve their economical levels. It is a critical matter of justice that women position in India, in multi cities beckon women with equality but they are harassed by gender it may be in work places, on house wives, etc some places where women are not safer and equal.

In common society where system of patriarchy is deep rooted in human life, there the position of women normally has many down sides. The male dominant does not give any type of rights to women, her position is fixed for households, and child birth. She

should take care of family, cooking etc, works purely dedicated for women in urban or in rural.

In Indian urban especially in middle class families women were still facing critical conditions like husband dominancy, restricted family condition and wife beating. This leads the struggle of women to get proper position. Shobha De resolves all positions of women in her all novels. By studying De's novels we can understand that in urban levels the positions variously are different. They can be treated as material object in consumer life as well as by family. De's novels *Sisters*, *Second Thought*, *Starry Night*, *Strange Obsession*, discuss about position of women especially in urban areas. All the novels stand with feminine voice. De's works become mirror of urban life at what position women were treated.

There are many instances in every novel it may be positive shade or negative shade of women life which decides the positions of women. For attempting a high success and to earn wealth, power etc or basic needs, women reaches sometime very low position. The circumstances which pulled women in the bad way is viewed by people against the women race. Women become projection of globalists in urban society. Many of middle class family had welcomed the all challenges of modernity for women. Women come to public positions and occupied the various positions, these are main terms which urban women accept in their life.

Shobha De introduces these vivid challenges of women in the urban and their struggles are expressed in well framed work of her novels. Shobha De's women characters were highly empowered and liberated persons who crosses limitations of tradition and orthodoxy because they were fully exposed persons in urban living. The global role for women is shaped by the forces of and their affinity to consumerism.

De's women protagonists often appear as branded women in urban areas, such as models, film stars, minor actress in advertisements, high profile women, rich class women, etc. These are the various roles of women in big cities and De declares their life in all the novels. However in the many ups and downs life of Twentieth century Indian so that women take opportunity of wealth and power. This is face of her feminism and liberation.

Women in the urban have typical identity because sometimes they belong to middle class families and sometimes rich aristocrat families. Women are playing very different roles in this system, they run behind modern culture as house wives, daughters, sisters, business women, film stars, etc. These are vivid faces of Indian urban women, as Shobha De wonderfully pictures new trends of modern urban women. All her seven novels discussed urban life and women struggle. De declares many issues of feminism in Indian society.

Hence so far this chapter has focused on Indian urban life and role of Women and how Shobha De opens the all secrets of women's life in the urban in Bombay like big city. Shobha De herself belongs to the high modern so she writes directly in her all novels about living in aristocrat middle class family, the struggle of every woman.

### **Women and Professions**

One of the attractions that modernity and capitalism gave to the common man is the total professionalization of every type of human activity. Professionalization glamorized the work place and beckoned them, even which it delegitimized experiential knowledge.

Among these professions, were several new areas of enterprise which become available to the man- on- the street, the profession of journalism, media, films and business.

Women were also drawn to these peculiarly capitalist professions. They bid for careers as model, film star, in media and in the field of business. To these women the domestic sphere of household which was now cutoff from economic sector must have appeared as oppressive and they rebel against it.

In these modern times media become tool of society. De comments on the life success of women and failure of their career, it is common thing for every woman who is life of the media. She takes many interviews of famous Hindi film hero and heroines in her latest magazine Star dust, the collection of personal interviews, meeting, and discussion with film stars. There is no hide and seek of secrets, she writes directly as a popular article writer as well as columnist in famous news paper also. They project the world of fashion, fancy and show biz as a common people. All her novels are set in high glittering city especially Bombay which becomes the hub of this glamour world. The city was full of population and competition. Her women dare all fields of profession.

De reveals all hidden facts of modern world or professional life of especially of women. De's women's are also very strong. It may be personal or professional challenge, they handled it very boldly for these women life was not serious matter they take it as lightly.

As an urban writer De's almost all characters purely belong to different types of professions. They are business women, industrialist; company manager, and film stars, models, journalist etc these are the fields of women where they remarkably compete. The



novels written and discuss about the ups and downs of female life, tragical life of suppressed women both ways in the family or by in the social view.

### **Women in Media**

In contemporary times one of the sectors to develop and influence the people is the area of mass media. In this situation woman who step up herself as beautiful material for the field. As the entertainment media begins to dominate the common people women also are implicated. First it was the radio, then came the films and television. By this, media reached the mind of every type of people even they may be illiterates, the media spread the message of morality, joy, fun, tragedy, punishment for bad thing so on these subjects are the real biases of media. Shobha De focuses especially on life of celebrities or Indian film stars, by her critical view she reveals some opinion and secrets of film stars as well as presenting as a fixed columnist of the great Indian news paper *The Hindu*, where she writes on political issues.

De firstly began her career as journalist for news papers and for magazines named Stardust, which was first published in Mumbai city in English since 1970. The magazine covers the life style and personal matters of film stars.

Some time it may be gossip of commercial films. Later she entered the field of modeling even opposing her orthodox family. As model De knows the ups-downs of the glittering world so. In the beginning of her writing career De opened a new image for Indian cinema, modeling a role of woman as glamour's figure. In her first magazine Stardust, it was like commentary on film stars and the publishers liked it became attracts people who for addictive being people who addict to media.

Women can step up into public field like media by their talent and beauty. In the multi cities of India especially Bombay where almost all film stars were located, usually common people are attracted to the glittering world. The Indian society is full of middle class people and slowly they began to enter the media as models, film stars, anchors, etc which give opportunity to women to enter the huge world of media.

Women in media create new image of women, and culture too changes. Women become entertainer for viewers it may be by the social plays or the films. Indian cinema starts the wave of technology in media. Later various regional languages too introduced many things. Often media creates some morality for society. After decades media also variously changes its position in society. The women become object of social issues became it used women as show piece of glamour. This can be found as a common thing in much Indian cinema. Shobha De usually criticized the media. In her opinions there may be some truth.

In her latest writing *Shobha De at Sixty* she refers to Madhuri Dixit a film star. She was heroine of popular Hindi film. De asks herself about beauty and the age. Women in the media occupied variety of places from the modeling to film star they played vivid role. Many feminist have supported women in the different fields, film media was one of them and it has changed the life of women to a life of pleasure. Women share the screen, equally with men, no question of gender appears there even though women are depicted in half naked state all the time.

Media was one of vast field where women search their identity. Through the media women role differed. They were getting more popularity from their stardom. The growth of technology in Indian context offers women an attractive figure in public, especially regarding their sexuality and bodily image.

With technology the way of entertainment also changes. Color film especially this technology high touched the field. The Indian cinema of modern time was fully based on the commercial where people did not bother of any matters; even if it spread the bad message to society they will accept it. By this way media has its own advantage and disadvantages also which directly affects on society; it may be on small children to youngster, and old people because they simply follow the media in their life.

In the metropolitan cities which are full of population where they run behind money and power, in such situation people unknowingly fall in the wrong way. Media offers many things to common people and they too hope of it. The families of middle class which become target of media because they try to imitate the life of media stars or films. From this only crime rate has increased. Women want to become film stars and they too go with vivid ways to reach their dream.

There are many instances that stand for these events of society, especially in the glittering city of Bombay where women follow many ways to become popular and earn money and power. Shobha De exposes all the seamier matters of Bombay city in her almost all the novels.

The matter of media in society level people usually accept any image of women in media. Women are usually sexual objects and they are using their independency to plead for their skills and knowledge. There are many issues that relates to women especially who involved in the field of media. Often the life of media women is full of struggle, tragedy, disappointment and failure. After crossing many hurdles in their life, they did struggle to come on the stage of media.

Media was a vast web of colorful world. There were many positive and negative sides to it, but again women were victimized persons because in the name of gender,

beauty, they suffer badly here. Recent media fully commercialized where women was used as brand symbol of consumer products, which can easily attract the people to come watch and buy.

The view of women was widely changed by media. Women step out of family on base of their beauty and skill. They perform in the media and are getting different identity for their individual life. The media become platform for anyone, the fast growth of technology is offering the people many ways. Sometimes all morality of women disappear, they are used as vulgar media which usually has most of bad effects on society. There is no limitation on watching the media and sometimes they are followed by society even if it may be crime.

In the Mumbai like high city home to most film stars it held there a wide place for women to search their identity. Especially among the middle class people where woman struggled to get name and fame in her life the media is source of hopes and dreams. Women try to reach as much as possible high place in society through the media, their vision on society was different but they are used by the media in ways it was impact of modernity or globalization on society.

Women in media often face molestation by males and De was voice of those women who may come under this situations. Media which attracts people especially the middle class who were in search of wealth, and women too step into the glittering world to portray herself as beautiful and skillful. But the way was not so easy for them. Urban women are mirror of this critical condition.

They are not only in the field of media, but they involve in various job fields where the same critical position is faced because society is male dominated. Women and

media are two faces of modernity the tool which creates the wave of changes in life of Indian people under many aspects. In modern eras the various technologies introduce the new culture as new trend.

For the reasons of a successful life a number of Indian writers, stood on the side of women and their opportunity. They pictured women as icon of modernity in high cities and in rural life of people. It may be positive or the negative shade of human life, women representation in media was a much debating matter. It has its own ways of producing women as object or thing, many times it effected on the real life in negative ways. Somewhere the dominancy still continuous in media, it may be on the screen or behind the screen there are many instances.

Woman wants to plead herself as able to man. When woman enter the world of glitter there is no limitation on their life, they go to many late night parties and discuss films, drink, smoke etc all activities that goes against them. The best example of this stardom life was Aasha Rani in the novel *Starry Night* and *Strange Obsession* discussed Amrita. In this novel De introduces the character which is realistic.

Two of De's novels *Starry Nights* and *Strange Obsession* especially deal with women's entry into the world of films and modeling. Aasha in *Starry Nights* and Amrita in *Strange Obsession* are victimized of this field of profession.

Both become good friends in a short time. Minx has good contacts with many film directors and producers. After a few days she offers Amrita photo shoot for persuading a famous film director. Amrita agrees on the order of Meenaxi and she did it because there was no better opportunity for her. In *Starry Night* Aasha's mother was originally from south India. The father was a film producer in Madras who left his two

daughters and wife when they were small. The mother struggled to take responsibility of the two daughters, and now she wants to see her daughter as a great film star in the Hindi film industry, and to earn money, wealth. By the force of her mother Aasha fell into the film industry. For her mother only money is everything, she even makes her daughter to sleep with anybody for to get offer in the films as heroine.

Aasha and her mother Amma, Amrita and Meenaxi, everyone tries to find good opportunity but it does not happen in their life. Finally in *Starry Night* Aasha Rani goes with many producers in the hope of offers in their film that too in the wrong way. All the directors and producers used her sexually and rejected her. This was also done by order of her mother Amma.

The film career of Aasha finally begins by the good help of a well known photographer named Kishan Bhai, who becomes too intimate for Aasha. By using her beauty and offering some film as heroine, Aasha becomes fed up of the money minded mother and male greedy culture. She restarts her life having an affair with Akshay Arora who was a married man. Even after knowing facts of his life she continues her relation with him. Not only with co-star Akshay, she has many illegal relationships in the film industry. Later she went to Britain and married a British person and settled herself there for eight years.

There she gives birth to daughter Sasha. At end of the novel Aasha again returns to India especially to Madras, where entire the film industry welcomes her and family. This was the realistic characters in the novel *Starry Night*. Women were struggled to get position in society in all ways but their choice becomes very typical. The life of media

women turns many ways disturbs them and there is no happiness. If women want to stand before media or society she has to sacrifice sexual morality, hopes and desires. Often a number of women in the field of media target their life on name, fame and even wealth. But in front of the wealth nothing stands in this field.

Women who chase after modern capitalist media culture and reached another level of society, lost their personal life which becomes full of misery. There is no peaceful or happy relation.

They cut off the intimacy with others especially with their life partner or husband. They are divorced or changing their husband, have illegal relations also. There are many instances that stand before us for this situation. Whatever happens in the life of a hero or especially a heroine in media it was an open fact for public and society. The life of glittering world of film industry in Indian context becomes very tragic. Having a good contact with Hindi film industry for a century Shobha De was deep observer of their personal life and career, De focuses the media and women role in her novels.

Like Aasha many instances comes through to the viewer or common people. In the cities like Bombay great ratio of women which follows the world of glamour. They were in search of the new in society. Hence the women character of Shobha De also opens the many secrets of media life and the life film industry.

Media appears to offer equal to men and women, but the way of women included disturbances in both their life and career. On account of gender women was victimized by society. In the modern social structure media plays major role. In it women are also included. Women who involve in the media are like icons of modern life. They meet with no such value for morality, sentimental relations.

Media was a glittering glamour world that attracted them. In the name of success women were oppressed by society. For wealth they reach a vivid life. As we discussed above, the character of Aasha Rani in the novel *Starry Nights*, who lose everything in life. May be she had enough wealth but she is depressed of it. Finally she moves to another country and married a western man, gave birth to a daughter. But again she wants to come to her own country India. After nine years Aasha visits to India, in the air port a huge welcome waits her gladly.

Many times women passed through the wrong way in search of a modern identity. As for instance Aasha Rani, in the world of glitter and glamour she lost her identity as a human. She reaches a very depressive path of society. Sometimes women involved in underground and criminal activities like smuggling, drug peddling different face of same society in the name of identity. Only a few people can become successful in modern society. Another good instance of a woman, who reveals secrets of modern life in the novel *Strange Obsession*, is the character of Meenaxi the only daughter of a wealthy father, who is police officer.

But her life style was totally different from other women, she has wealth and power, by using these ways she did many wrong things. Not only for her life itself but also in the life of her close friend Amrita. In the name of help and opportunity in the film industry Meenaxi pulled Amrita in the wrong way, she played games with her life.

Shobha De's women were having very different identity because they belong to modern century and high cultured women. Where they have full liberty about their life, women as De focus they are totally selfish and lustful characters. In the all novels De provides vivid hidden faces of women who are living in the high cities.



## **Women in Business Field**

Women in the twentieth century are involved everywhere in the competitive world and want to become successful. Women in these eras often found various professions as labor or as owner itself, educated women want to stand as economically independent by crossing all hurdles of modernity.

Especially in urban areas women want to be different from common women, they are the builders of their own future. Their struggles in every step take these women in another way of profession or competition, in the glittering city Bombay, where woman seeks to find their charm and bright future. Women in these cities often come under the influence of media, industry, and other business. Their life became purely dedicated to these types of profession.

Many feminists argued on these issues of women in the professional field. It reveals the reality of women struggle in the fields which is too hard and sometimes cruel to them. Many problems are faced by women in their professional. Like other Indian feminist Shobha De refers the life of metro women or the profession women in her all works. De novels are representations of modernity and product of capitalism.

Almost all the novels of De deal with the personal life of professional women in high cities. There are many women characters that stand on success and failure of their profession. One side the role of women depends on family and another side their profession. There are many instances that stand for it, De focused on life of women where they have independency, power and wealth in their hand.

De's women had separate view on their life, because it was purely the commercial life of women in multi cities. As professional women they are struggling to get their

position and finally become successful. The vivid hidden shadows of a successful life of women, often there is no value for human relation, beyond their highly profound commercial ambition. De highlights such women such as Nisha in *Sultry Days*. A young and beautiful lady from the high city of Delhi after her graduation in journalism she searched for a good job along with her best boyfriend Deb. But he has an affair with a married woman in order to increase his political influence

Deb supports her in every matter but in the matter of their profession they never compromise. They settled in different fields of profession. Deb wants to earn money and power in the city instead of marrying with Nisha. He turns to the field of politics by the help of another local political leader. Nisha too turns her life towards career company work.

There she finds a new friend and she come to know that he was not Indian. Nisha and Deb are best example characters of professional in high city. De proves the importance of power and wealth through these characters in this novel. At the end Deb is killed but Nisha remains and she continues in her profession.

Humans follow competition in the economic arena, especially among business icons, who work in vivid sectors, offices, etc. They are considered as money minded. There are many instances that stand out in the works of Shobha De. A good instance of the depiction of money follower is in the novel *Second Thoughts*, in this novel Maya's husband Ranjan who was purely a money minded person working in an insurance office in Bombay. And he was doted by his mother.

Maya is from Calcutta and she shortly wants to become a model. She is young, educated and belongs to orthodox family. When they are on their honeymoon the

husband was worrying of money and his profits. Maya becomes too disappointed and settled herself as a high class house wife, where she has no identity and freedom: That she should dress well and do her household things, two times square meals in a day and she must obey all the rules of her family and mother-in-law.

The life of Maya was full of disappointment because of the matter of money. Husband doesn't care for even as her newly married. She feels her life as a colorless dream. Finally in the novel she met one young handsome boy called Nikhil a neighbor. He lived next door. He starts a friendship with her and gives her moral support for her all feelings. And slowly she is impressed by him but he also turns out to be money minded. At the end of the novel Maya runs into the kitchen where the soup has boiled. With a smile she puts out the flame of the gas stove.

All this is indication of urban life of people where only importance is for money. Husband runs behind finance. Even though the family situation binds the woman, keeps as private wife and cuts her off from the sphere of money and business; the relations of family members, are not healthy again it may by relation of parents to their children, husband and wife, sisters, friends, etc. It is indication of developments in economical power, changes in social structure in late modern times in the Indian context.

De's women often identified as moral of modernity, they may be modern house wife, daughter, *Sisters*, business women, models, film star etc professions. Shobha De's woman characters give the good instance of professional life of women in Indian context.

In *Sisters*, a young lady called Mikki, runs her father's business successfully. After her father's death also she continues to keep her father's profession. Alisha is Mikki's younger sister, both of them are educated and pursue a modern style, like they

arrange the parties, visit pubs and bars, involve in late night party, have boy friends who are playboys. Both Alisha and Mikki work hard in their profession of business face a number of challenges and problems in business. Both want to marry well and for love but both fail to do so.

Mikki marries her old business partner Binny Malhotra. After the marriage a few months later the tragedy begins in the life of Mikki because the husband married her not for life sake but for her wealthy and property. He starts to beat her and behave very cruelly. She wants to convince him but it was a waste for her to hope. Even on their honeymoon he never talks with her, they live as if separately.

The life of Mikki goes with a lot of trouble, finally she demands of him and there is more shocking news for her: he was already married and was father of two children. Mikki's husband wanted to possess the whole property which belongs to her, even he stops Mikki's visit to the office. He captures everything from her. Thus the cruelty never stops. Finally Mikki takes a strong decision that she wants to divorce him. She became free and saved her wealth. Leading her profession as business woman, she considers marrying another old boyfriend. Hence the life of professional women was often a failure. Women life in the professional field was tagged with negation of society or it may be own family. Unfortunately their labor was not takes as much serious thing in the structure of family where women have different roles.

Alisha on the other hand has a series of love affairs with men who are engaged elsewhere. Finally she has a relationship with a married man named Kurien who gets her addicted to do sex and takes her to the underworld of crime. Mikki helps her to get out of it in the end.

## **Conclusion**

This chapter has looked at the situation of urban women who are in typical capitalist setting: middle class women segregated inside middle class family life, which is hub of capitalism, husband a business man and its consumer life style. Secondly it has looked at women who enter capitalist profession, two main professions- media, that is film and journalism, business. De's novels depict all these three types of capitalist setting for women. She depicts them as caught up between a male dominated private life and a beckoning capitalist profession both arenas which locked morality by money and sex power. Her women are usually unable to combat either and become objected and brutalized. Their participation in capitalism is not transformative, but goes along, with it. In the circumstance woman's identity and liberation becomes ambiguous and questionable in such a culture; that is to say it becomes difficult to say if they are victims or victors.

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*Chapter - 5*

*Conclusion*

## **Chapter-5**

### **Conclusion**

The novels of Shobha De, we can conclude are on matters of capitalism and its impact on the modern woman. From De's first novel *Starry Nights* to her latest book she portrays women's vivid roles in the world of late capitalism with especial reference to Bombay city. Women and their struggling life continue even in the modern twentieth century and Shobha De tries to focus life corners of society where hides the voiceless and those considered as subaltern in society.

The subaltern life of women Indian makes it very difficult for them to cross all the limitations in the Indian family system and society it may be marriage, or motherhood or profession. A vast transformation has occurred in the contemporary times owing to capitalism and technology. In this situation women too vie for a place of equality, radically via social, political struggle. The feminist movement was one such. In the Indian context feminism and its impact influence the women writers regarding their power in the family as well as in society. The city and the urban is the locale of all these changes. It includes good and bad. It is a place of competition and the hub of capitalistic life.

De's novels belong to the urban culture. They depict a bunch of character that are fully commercial and independent. In every novel she portrays them as moral persons of modern culture, in high city life their urge for economy and other relations is fixed by capitalist relation.

They change husbands or friends, and are highly sexualized, self centered fixed on their beautiful body. They search various ways to reach their desire in social or in

personal life. De's novels stand on feminism, where woman is supreme and men are criticized. Women are protagonists of De's novels. Only a few novels like *Sultry Days* she introduced male political protagonist such as Deb and Yeshwantbhai who are political leaders. The women in capitalism had various faces, it may be social or personal competition and they are the winners. From the common to reach the peak of success in high glittering city, it is a big task and often reached by short cut. She describes it as the culture of capitalism, their struggle in the novels only for money, power, and wealth. Apart from these limitations De does not explain. In urban areas women try to lead life but fell into wrong ways or the system of modern patriarchy holds them. However they evade from situations and built new world of their fancy.

De's women usually begin as with held in middle class and suffocating male centric domestic conditions. But as the stories proceed in the mid parts she discussed women characters as also have ability to protest against the circumstances. Usually the novels end by De giving full liberation to the women characters to act according to their own wishes. By sheer personal guilt they attempt to enter the capitalistic arena and they live beyond all limitations of society.

Shobha De's works can be considered as expressing radical feminism where men controlled capitalist hierarchy and women are oppressed class. In post colonial literature women are critically examined by others and it pleads that they are second sex in social level.

De's works focus on another side of society where everything is mixed, more bad than good. For a shore of vivid ways of capitalism women claimed to equality with men. They progress in social life by good or bad ways. They tried to reach it and all women characters did the same in Shobha De's novels.



So, in this way of a modern feminist Shobha De too stands for Indian feminism; through her works in literature she offers women freedom and high culture, the dare to go against male dominance in society or in the family levels. De's women chase after sex, power and to be included in the capitalist activities such as business and profession.

In capitalist culture driven by the mass media like film, television woman becomes "brand label", from soaps, sari to all household things, consumer goods. Women are passionate about this ugly and bad glittering media world which is the main root of capitalism in cities. The capitalist women easily step into world of glitter without a moral. In Bombay like city all the bourgeois followed it blindly, especially women who are very interested about beauty and cosmetics, even opposing their orthodox family culture they forcefully enter the field of film for a good instance.

All the novels of De's are set in modernity of Indian society, and the characters purely followed the way commercial. She depicts rich and bourgeois levels in high city, they are very eager in their attempts even if guilty for sake of money and wealth. De shows women who are ready to evade from social morality. Such realistic works of Shobha De spreads the message of the modern world; it is full of guilt, illicit, crime. De debates on the side of women and she tries to give them all type of liberty.

They are rebellious about the inequality of gender so, she pictures them even as lesbians or else they face hollowness of human relations in capitalist culture. They are never subdued as subalterns but they found new ways for them to reach success, De figures the vivid faces of modern women, for instance those women who are models, film stars, business women, working women in various public fields, and even as modern type house wife, the list of De's creative characters portrayed the result of capitalism and

feminism in Indian society. The characters of women in De's work they are phenomenal and mirror of modern culture, they can easily break down all rules, as for instance having extra marital relation or lesbianism.

It is very clear that Shobha De's women characters are fully involved in capitalism, they are paradox of culture and independence and belong to the marginalized in the city. Their life speculates on the new way of life where they comfort themselves. They hate subordination to men, especially in patriarchal condition. De applies the main stream of feminism and its theory for her novels. The over- liberation of women goes in wrong directions and sometimes into the prohibited but De never looks behind for it and its negative shade of women in social or in family structures. Her narration of local culture opens the secrets of modern capitalism and city life. De refers to partying, and shopping, eating out, numerous activities, of city life.

It has been a struggle for the modern woman to overthrow the consumer frame of family and enter into the capitalist arena. She represents women as object of commercial world because in male dominate society women stand for it. By crossing the patriarchal boundary these women's characters enter in the world of glitter and glamour in the city of Bombay.

These stereotyped ambitious women characters appear in the novels and spread message of high culture of the multi cities. De tries to maintain supremacy of social culture but it was not successful because a number of critics condemn her. The works of Shobha De because of her usual glance on gender, makes an issue of sex and women appear as vamp. De was called as 'queen of controversy', many times it is proved by her unnecessary comments, it may be condemnation on political issues and national matters.

De presents her works like allegories of modern city life and characters of women are exclusively discussed.

De has associated with media since nineteen sixty and modern film world, here the position of women is very critical because they are used only for glamour and treated as second sex. Usually women in commercial world are as object or symbol of sex. So, they are not in a good way, many times they are harassed by males. This situation glittering of women can be studied in the novel *Starry Nights*. The novel reveals the facts of world glittering of silver screen and De refers again to Hindi film world which is very popular. In this glittering city of films the character of Aasha Rani who even takes to prostitution to get entry into films. In the field of media women are never recognized as moral: Aasha like characters hide behind the glittering world.

De directly discussed it in her works it shows the extra ordinary views of the author on society. They are only for glamour media and without any womanhood or identity. There is no doubt that Shobha De too belonged to this world so that they fight against it and male dominancy.

The works of Shobha De stand for contemporary issues of women like culture, identity, liberty, and equality of gender in social structure. From their writings they try to give justice for women who suffocate in the world of capitalism and in modern society. The life of capitalism especially in Indian context is very difficult to define, which is right and which is wrong. For their view it is question of their identity and success in life.

For this reason itself many times Shobha De is also criticized by other male authors. Her novels or short stories reveal the behind hare face of modern capitalist life which is really incredible. De used women as center weapon of her works and projects the novels as tool of feminism or capitalism. In the contemporary time the place of

women is dedicated to equality. Their exploitation in society differs with the growth of society. Capitalism beckons the women with hopes of equal economic levels. In the male dominated world the ways for women were very hard because they are suffering all in the stages of life; a girl child from birth to her death has to surrender to male customs of all society.

De's women are quite opposite of all this. In the shadows of capitalism or urbanization they are much developed and strong in their individual life. They live according to their own wishes and never stop anywhere and do not bother about anybody so, De gives narratives of capitalist modernity in her all novels. Her women are not to be bothered with the contradiction and dilemmas of modernity. They fully welcome this artificial world of hollow social relations. De directly links to world of commercial.

There no question of gender arise because women survive like man, their urge for wealth, power, and liberty is beyond of all limitation. They live with shadow of modern culture and capitalistic touch which provides wide way for all and materialistic life. De's novels are shifting an attempt to another new world order where the women try to create their own environment but after fail to do so.

The feminism in De's novel can be revealed through her characters that they are not subordinate to society or to modern patriarchy. In this way capitalism has become culture of the generations. The life of humans in high city is based on commercial capitalism where women have total freedom from their economical conditions; they are not depending on male or society.

In the capitalist culture everything is based on consumer style especially in high cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, etc., Indian capital cities that glitter with the vivid faces of capitalism. This capitalistic culture has impacted on the modern feminist Shobha

De. De's world of fictions fully involves in capitalist style where she especially refers to woman. They are boundless and liberated. As a feminist author De too offers the women as symbol of power in capitalistic world. She pictures women characters are very strong by nature and leads their life within a capitalistic base, where they are considered as icons of beauty, power, business, etc.

De becomes constant observer of this type of women. Living in Bombay like city crowded with people who run for money, wealth, and powers in their hands and they are ready to do anything for that. The capitalist culture is attractive to common humans surely they fell into this web of capitalism. In this level of capitalism women innovates their extra ordinary talents and become popular, they catch up every chance of their independency to grab capitalism.

It is clear that capitalist women want to play vivid roles as educated daughter, modern house wife, commercial friends, business line persons, compete in the field of modeling, glamour films, etc familiar places of capitalism where women maintain her various roles. Their sophisticated style of living has no morality this can appear as negative impact of capitalism on human, especially woman. The enthusiasm of women to enter the fancy world of capitalism takes them directly on the wrong side of society. The women turn to materialist interest such as parties, shopping, pop culture dress up, all activities in which consumption of capitalist goods takes centre place.

De's fictions are a mirror of capitalism in the Indian context she brands the women as capitalist figure. It is difficult to justify that capitalism has provided women with liberation, but if we go through De's point of view this seems right. She gives a moral touch by her writings style which almost shows the vamping nature of women. De's women's are a projection of capitalism in India.

The role of women in capitalist society has its wide coverage there is no limitations for it. An author like De pleads it through their works. Women who are considered as oppressed come to the main with its attempt to enter in capitalistic field. Corruption and consumption are the reality of capitalism never gives any solutions there is no final destiny. She goes on to innovate the new way for human life and they obey the conditions of capitalism especially in urban sectors as De addressed in her novels.

The urban people depend on capitalism, where women play major role from the side of family up to public levels women enter with vividness, they are fully liberal and surrender themselves to the dominating world.

In the every work of Shobha De she reflects the impact and reality of capitalism in urban areas. The women are good instance for this swift growth of economic power in the society. According to author De, a high city like Bombay depends on capitalism and offers vivid attraction for women to plead themselves as equal to the men, and almost all the women's characters in Shobha De's novels they proved that they are living and purely following the way of capitalism in their life.

Among other things De represents reality of marriage in the late capitalist context which is based on commercialism for these women characters. She discussed the reality of capitalism and domestic situations for women. Capitalism is much based on commercial and the marriage, family, personal life, human relations everything does not have any strength in it. Especially De refers to the upper class life in capitalistic society, the struggle of bourgeois which can tell the story of city, and its positive and negativity on society. But De is empowering her woman characters to get away from social as well as family bounds. De creates such strong situations for women of capitalism to get across all limitations in society.

Not only the marriage, family, domestic matters etc but more than that De discussed in her own style that women are posse in media, business, and field of modeling. Various professions are offered by the author to the women of capitalism.

The characters of women are therefore strong by nature and ready to do anything for their life success, money and for wealth and for power. They are involved beyond their limitations, like lesbianism they are pimps, even so, another side of capitalist society is picturaized by Shobha De that is something human not good to listen or follow. Only this is the real plot of De's novels that is allegories of capitalism.

Shobha De's novels never discussed about the conditions of subalterns in remote places like small villages. She only views on urban sectors where the word capitalism is common to society. De is herself citizen of Bombay and a very keen observer of culture and life of people in society and she tries to draw the same picture of capitalist society in her novels.

Shobha De's novels are exposes of the inner world of women where they are insecure by gender issues so, finally they select to rebel against male domination. Women in capitalism surely came across of it in every step of their life, in family, as daughter and in the outside world; Not only as daughter but as good women, wife, friend, sister etc roles handled by women are shown to be full of mischief. The role of women in capitalism is almost selfish, as De discussed there is no women character that obeys the rules of morality. Their creativity is right for them those who leave everything behind.

The women of capitalism are different from their attitudes, they are not concerned on humanity or society. De sets them in luxury life style in urban and free from all rigidity of morals. The women in capitalism are often broken in heart and rebuilt it from

their own struggle. They reshape women roles with capitalist context. They fight against dominancy. All this is very colorfully pictured in her every novel. They never left any single chance to defeat the men in their way.

Women are over possessed in De's novels and become the hero of their life. Like free birds they travel their life, without any hesitations of their desire may be physically or mentally. The capitalist women role no doubt claim on success, but on the way all the hurdles gives them bad turns in their life. Usually they stand on money, power, wealth, and sex these fix of capitalism tries to draw the attention of readers to this and it makes up unique style of her writing. De glanced at it very deeply and made good effort to produce it in fiction. In terms of capitalism where women operated by their economic condition, De first refers to women then to man always typical and average displaying the typical Indian dominancy on women.

The role of women in capitalism according to Shobha De is a marginalized situation; apart from some of fields they are not acceptable. The way of their life in capitalism is full of insecurity by gender issues so, they become easy victims of modern capitalistic society. There are so many vivid roles of women. It is difficult to understand and to justify which is right or which is wrong. But De's women characters are a mix of both good and bad.

It is not sure that all women role is moral to other but readers take over the reality and guilt of capitalism, by studying Shobha De's novels. She treats all women as marginalized in corporate world. Her works portray the hidden facts of capitalist life.

She referred to all dimensions of women roles in capitalist society. She focused on such issues where women are struggling in their life and for identity. So, for this reason may be Shobha De's works located at posh areas of city Bombay where the



conflict of gender and as well as conflict of culture is spontaneously going on, but every time women figure as symbol of success.

It is possible that De has failed through her writings to change the image of women. But it is not the fault of her women characters as she debates on everything dominated by capitalism, money or wealth. According to De it is essential of human life in capitalism. The women challenge their exclusion from it. Those women of capitalism variously rebuilt their roles as business women, and competitor but failed in the end. As an author De empowers the women and their roles in capitalism. In the city life and corporate world. Shobha De's fictional world as allegories of the capitalist culture in India and the women run behind the fast growth of society. But they attempts failure in their life due to the only reason that they are 'women'.

The capitalist society offers many things to human life and its growth of economic power, where woman is object of gender bias. So, these rebellious women fight against this rigidity and built their personality and become successful. De novel shows clearly to readers the realities of capitalism and how it masks human element. Her women maintain the typical situations by playing vivid role they become comparable to men and over come with success.

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