



# Indian Women Writers Invaluable Contribution in English Literature

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## ABSTRACT

The objective of this research paper is to highlight the invaluable contribution given by Indian women writers in Literature. Writings by women has given a new dimension to the Indian literature. In the 20th century, women's writing has been considered a powerful medium of modernism and feminist statements. The last two decades have witnessed phenomenal success in feminist writings of Indian English literature. Indian women writers have given a new direction to the Indian literature. They have made an everlasting mark in the field of English literature by their outstanding writing ability. Now we can see a new awareness in women in all walks of life. Since ages women have been the point of unfriendly remarks. All the negative views find place in the form of myths, stories, legends and history. "A man's life without a woman is like a flower without fragrance, a ship without a rudder or a body without spirit." A woman plays a pivotal role in her family. Both man and woman are congratulatory to each other. Women are showing their spirit in every field, and in some respect, far better than the men. Now, women are not a marionette in the hands of men. They are equaled efficient like men. Indian English literature has gifted numerous enthusiastic women novelist as Sarojini Naidu , Mena Alexander ,Tooru Dutt , Shobha De and many more. All of these female writers are famous for their bold point of view that they tried to reflect through their literary works. Their contribution not only flourishes the English literature but also colored the life of women and society . In a nutshell, it can be said that their novels focused on the women characters as a protagonists who are isolated in the male dominating society. So that in general their contribution is admirable and Indian women writers has been received high appreciation not only from India but also from rest of the world.

**KEYWORDS:** Indian, women, writers, literature, feminism, English.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Indian English literature specifically relates with works in English language written by Indian writers. Indian English literature covers wide area of writings in various genres. Indian writings have turned out to be a new form of Indian culture and voice in which India can converse regularly. Indian women writers, poets, novelists and essayist have been making momentous and considerable contribution not only in Indian English but also in world literature. Indian English literature not only flourished by men writers but women writers has also given crucial contribution in the development of Indian English literature. Indian women writers have provided a new dimension, scope and objective to the India English literature. Indian English not only deals with novels

but also deal with relationship with poetries and short stories because ,before the rise of novel many women writers of India has composed various types of songs , pomes, hymns and short stories and expressed their feelings and emotions. In the old days the works written by women writers in India considered undervalued and useless because of the patriarchal assumptions. In those days the Indian societies mostly gave priority and value to male writers only, it was the time when all the women writers used to write about the women's perception and their unspoken feelings but only within the limited enclosed arena. As the time passed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century more and more women writers started to took active part in India's reformer movement and with the arrival of 20th century women's writing is considered as a powerful mode of modernism and feminism.

## II. MAIN BODY

Woman writers in India has brought Indian English literature on the new dimension by their extraordinary talent of conveying ideas through the variety literary works in every genres, the contribution of Indian woman writers are mostly appreciated in all literary categories most of the women writers try to express the inner grief, discrimination, dissatisfaction and, agony through their written works. Most of the woman writer in India Indian English literature has described the life of woman who is caught between their own aspirations and constricting forces of patriarchy.

Whenever there is a talk about literature then we can see a large number of women writers have been given their invaluable contribution in the every genre of Indian literature in English. While talking about the beginning of woman's contribution in literature the very first name occurs in mind that is Sarojini Naidu. She was born in 1879 in Hyderabad in very learned family and grown up in educational atmosphere,she started writing at the early age, when she was only 11 years old she wrote her first poem "Lady of Lake" which has 1300 lines, her first major collection of poem named "The Golden Threshold" published in 1905 this collection contains more than 40 lyrics on variety of matters. Sarojini Naidu has charmed her reader by her exquisite writings and simple subject and style, these collection of her poems not only express her feeling but also it is an expression of temperament. In this collection the subject matter selected by Sarojini Naidu is very basic and plain it covers a variety of subjects ranging from "Invocation to India to Lord Buddha seated on Lotus". The majority of lyrics is about the common people of India engaged in their daily activity such as snake charmer,weaver,farmer,hawker,palquin barrier,dancers and wandering singers etc. in some of her poems she has beautifully described simple Indian life and rich culture with the use of various symbols and imagery, her poems also deals with the relationship between human life and nature, her poems always consist very lucid language which is easy to understand, as we see in her choices of subjects and diction in these lines.

*"whole lightly we bare her along  
she sways like a flower in the wind of our song  
she swims like a bird on the foam of stream  
she floats like a laugh from the lips of dream"*

In these lines we can see that how simple and easy subject matter is selected by Sarojini Naidu. Sarojini Naidu also known as the "Nightingale of India" 'this is the title given her by Mahatma Gandhi. In 1912 she published her second collection of poems the "Birds of Time"these collection of poems consist 46 lyric and the title of this collection is taken from Scott Fitzgerald's translation of "Omar Khayyam", most of lyrics in this collection deals with the theme of love predominance, love in nature ,no less than in human life. This collection of poems also deals with the theme of nature simple flock life ,patriotism ,mysticism ,love and death.

In 1917 Sarojini Naidu published her third collection of poems "*The Broken Wings*" in London it was published by William Heineman it is collection of 61 short lyrics in which Sarojini Naidu shows the equal attraction for the Hindu and Islamic traditions, this collection of poems includes beautiful lyrics such as The Flowering Year, The Temple, The Gate of Delight, The Path of Tears and the Sanctuary. In the year 1943 Sarojini Naidu published her third collection of poems "The Sculptured Flute" which contains her finest poems such as The Bird of Time, Indian love song, Ecstasy and much more all these poems deal with very basic and common subjects of daily life of common people Sarojini Naidu's final collection of poem "The Father of Dwan" published posthumously by her daughter Padmaja Naidu, this collection of poems consists 33 finest lyrics such as a Persian Lute, Song, The Gift, The Amulet, The Festival of Sea, this collection describes that Sarojini Naidu has not abandoned the poetry as it has been supposed by some people. Her poetic veins did not dry up because she continued to sing like a bird until the end. All the collections of her poems employ very simple themes and symbolism most of her poems deal with the simple joys and hopes fears and lives of common people living in the town and country. Her poems also deal with the themes of aches and ecstasies of love and nature Sarojini Naidu's contribution in literature is remarkable and her unique ability of conveying ideas through the images and symbolism made her one of the greatest authors in English literature. She has been widely recognized as a writer of common people because most of the themes of her works always revolve around the lives of common people and their routine life and activity.

When we talk about women's contribution in literature there will be numerous names we came across who have given their massive contribution in the development of literature and established themselves among the rank of renowned writers of literature in English.

Meena Alexander born in 1951 in a Bengali family she is known as one of the greatest diasporic writers of India. Meena Alexander is recognized for expressing her own life's diasporic experience through her poetry uprooting and exile, alienation and identity, migrant memories and traumas of immigrants. Meena Alexander has written many beautiful poems on the theme of melancholy, death, and devaluation of values, her well-known publications are the "Birds Bright Ring" published in 1976 "Without Place" in 1978 and "I root My Name" in 1977, are some of the greatest collections of her poems, her majority poems deal with the "stream of consciousness" technique and "dramatic monologue" technique her perfect and extraordinary command over the language and diction and use of suitable imagery and symbolism and highly expressive words and spontaneity are the outstanding characteristics of her poetry and which stood her in the rank of one of the famous poets of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Toru Dutt one of the renowned women writers who has established herself in row of most outstanding women writers in the literature Toru Dutt is recognized for her invaluable contribution in literature. Toru Dutt was born in 1856 in Bengali family when she was very young her father took her to Europe, she got her primary education under the guidance of her father. She had a great command on Bengali, English and French but she showed her great interest for English language to express herself and she composed her mostly works in English language, her outstanding and creative works is not only a successful illustration of synthesis of Indian and English culture but Indian life also. She was highly interested in the songs and legends of India which she used to listen from her mother in her childhood. Toru Dutt is recognized for her famous literary work which includes "A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields" it is an anthology of 173 poems which express her personal experiences and feelings through the beautiful symbolism and imagery with lucid diction. Toru Dutt also is recognized for her collection of ancient ballads legends of India which she has been very beautifully described in her anthology of poems named "A Sheaf Gleaned in Sanskrit Field" which was published posthumously in

1882. Toru that's major poem "Savitri" published in 1882 recognized as her masterpiece poem beside the collection of poems Toru Dutt also wrote a romantic novel named "Bianca or The Young Spanish Maiden", it was a great novel which tells the story of a young girl mourning loss of her sister ,which was appeared in serial form in Bengali magazine the novel presents the theme of faith, family and the experience of young foreigner living in England. Toru that was prolific writer known for her huge contribution in literature despite living a very short span of life she has been recognized for her outstanding style of writing and presenting the ideas in very practical manner. Toru Dutt was natural poet who wrote lyrics giving utterance to her youthful dreams and her love for nature. She left the world at the early age of 22 due to tuberculosis in 1877. Though her contribution to English poetry during her brief life span is very significant and valuable because of which she has gained a prominent place in the history of English literature and she would be remembered for her remarkable quality of work for the very long time.

While talking about the woman's contribution in literature the name of prominent Indian English writer Shobha De holds a respected place. Shobha De my was born in 1948 considered as one of the prominent women author of India who is recognized for her invaluable contribution in the field of English literature. Shobha De mostly known for her scripts of TV shows she often recognized as feminist because most of her literary works shows the concern with the problem and crisis of women and their lives. In her early days she worked as a model and later on she made her career in journalism, in 1970s Shobhaa De became famous after editing the magazine named "Nari Hira". Her literary writing journey eventually turned her into India's bestselling author more than seventeen of her novels climbed the best selling books charts at once and her works has been translated into many languages. While Shobha De used to write for a Times of India as a columnist she has been beautifully described the social life of Mumbai as well lavish and dazzling lifestyle of celebrities.

Shobha De recognized as great successful woman, as a novelist, a columnist, and perfect homemaker said by herself in her autobiography "Spouse". Her famous works includes "Shethji" published in 2012, "Shobha at Sixty" in 2010, "Sandhyas Secret" in 2009 and much more which established her one of the most successful woman novelist of India. Her well known novel "Starry Nights" is an allegedly inspired by the two famous Bollywood off screen couple, the book also described the dynamics of Indian showbiz industry. Her works got high response from the reader because of her unique style of presenting the real picture of social life in very easy way.

### III. CONCLUSION

In conclusion we must say that the contribution of women writers in literature is really invaluable, in ancient time woman's has not got any basic freedom but they have establish their place among the all male writers with their marvelous ability of writing. Indian woman writers has been read and praised by their readers and they give immense contribution of their writing in the every genre of literature and also gained high appreciation in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century, women writers has established themselves in the rank of most successful writers of the world they have been using English to represent the Indian culture and spirit. The work written by women writers is amazingly impressive and it has attracted attention widely with the passage of time.

#### IV. REFERENCES

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