

**A STUDY ON INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS AND
CONTRADICTIONS IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS IN ROOTS
AND SHADOWS**

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Abstract

Shashi Deshpande is known for bringing out graphic details on girl children and their psychology. Her observation on female psychology, the changes in the society and her intense knowledge on the Indian tradition are price worthy. Shashi Deshpande brings out a peculiar approach towards women's problems. *Roots and Shadows* talks about the educated women who are not able to liberty themselves from traditional environment in which they are brought up. The article explores interpersonal conflicts and contradictions in the lives of individuals through the character Indu from *Roots and Shadows*. The novel talks about dynamics in an Indian family and its conflicts. Indu undergoes great mental hurt in the name of wedding. Marriage, a social institution, place a prominent role in the life of every Indian woman.

Keywords: Female Psychology, Mental hurt, Interpersonal conflicts and Contradictions.

Introduction

Shashi Deshpande is known for creating women characters who belong to Indian middle class and are brought up in traditional circumstances who are struggling to liberate themselves and strive to find self-identity. The writer is also known for bringing out graphic details on girl children and their psychology. Her observation on female psychology, the changes in the society and her intense knowledge on the Indian tradition are price worthy. Shashi Deshpande brings out a peculiar approach towards women's problems. Most of her women characters are educated and seek identity as wife, mother and as human being.

Shashi Deshpande's writing depicts varieties of suffering that are connected to social taboos, marital relationship and most importantly the sufferings of women who are silenced in the name of family honour and are forced to tolerate the tortures. The situations and the

characters in her novels are familiar with the Indian culture and mood. *Roots and Shadows* talks about the educated women who are not able to liberty themselves from traditional environment in which they are brought up. Since their childhood, the mind of a girl child is designed in a particular way to infuse in her all kinds of feminine qualities. The novel describes the pain and suffocation of the protagonist Indu in a male dominated and tradition bond society.

Implementation

The article is going to explore interpersonal conflicts and contradictions in the lives of individuals through the character Indu from *Roots and Shadows*. The novel talks about dynamics in an Indian family and its conflicts. Indu's mother passes away at childbirth and her father leaves Indu in the care of his old aunt "akka", after the death of his wife. Akka represents age old women with all orthodox beliefs and conventional thoughts. Indu, the protagonist of the novel, rebels against the conventional ideas of Akka. Indu marries a man of her choice at the age of eighteen. She marries him only with the hope of escaping from the orthodox family. She leaves her home with the hope that her wedded life would bring her freedom and happiness. But life after her marriage was contrasting from what was expected. I had thought I had found my alter ego in Jayant. I have felt that in marrying him, I had become complete. I had felt incomplete, not as a woman, but as a person. And in Jayant, I have thought I had found the other part of my whole self. Not only that but total understanding, perfect communication. And then, I had realized this was an illusion. I have sent it cheated. (Shashi Deshpande 108).

Soon after their marriage, Indu realises that her husband wants had to lead her life according to his wish, views dreams and aspirations. She feels cheated and disappointed in her marital life. She feels to understand the feeling of true love. "I had for some time loved Jayant. But between the idea and the reality there is an immeasurable distance. To see, to feel a real man was so far removed from the idea of love as it was to them... a small crack in the perfection" (Shashi Deshpande 91). Even though she is not happy with husband, she always attempts to please him. She acknowledges herself as an incomplete person with wishes: ant. At the effort of pleasing her husband, she loses herself identity. She has destroyed all her emotions, feelings, dreams and aspiration. She also kills her passion of being a creative writer.

As a dominating husband, Jayant suppresses their female voice of expression in Indu and also builds her life dull and mechanical. The women in Indu can neither love her life nor hate but only pretend to be happy. She is shop to see her life with no wants, no dreams, no aspiration, no individuality and no identity. Even her dressing is not as per her wishes: When I look in the mirror, I think of Jayant. When I dress, I think of Jayant. When I undress, I think of him, always what he would like, what would please him. And I can't blame him. It's not he who has pressurized me into this. It's the way I want it to be... Am I on my way to becoming an ideal woman who shed her 'I' (Shashi Deshpande 53)

Indu realises that a complete surrender of herself to her husband's wish is frustrating and painful. After ten years of her marriage, Indu writes to her family as Akka, matriarch

how far family is in deathbed. Akka leaves all her properties to Indu and the family members become jealous of Indu for she receives the properties who has left them by insulting the family name.

Indu is distressed and commits adultery with one of her cousins named Naren. With the hope of attending freedom, sheeve thinks of leaving her husband, but she has no brave to do so. Finally, Indu decides to return to Jayant and admits her loyalty. Indu decides to continue with her marital life with her husband though it is not a successful one. She turns over her life towards Jayant in order to prove her family members that she lives successful and happy wedded life. Though her expectations regarding married life are not fulfilled, she remains to be with her husband.

Marriage is the destiny traditionally offered to women by society. It is still true that most women are married, or have been, or plan to be, or suffer from not being. The celibate women is to be explained and defined with reference to marriage, whether she is frustrated, rebellious, or even indifferent in regard to that institution... no doubt marriage can afford certain material and sexual conveniences: it freeze the individual from loneliness, it establishes him secularly in space and the time by giving him my home and children; it is a definitive fulfilment of his existence. (*The Second Sex* 445-451)

Conclusion

The feminine dreams are suppressed in the name of marriage as Jayant does not tolerate any deviations on Indu's side from the traditional role of being typical wife. Her husband takes her silence and patients for granted and not realising that she is also an individual with her own desires and dreams. Marriage, a social institution, place a prominent role in the life of every Indian woman. Indu undergoes great mental hurt in the name of wedding. The novel brings out interpersonal conflicts and contradictions in the lives of individuals.

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