



Shobha De's Second Thought: The Cultural and Psychological Conflicts

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Abstract: *Shobha De is mostly discuss the psychological aspects in her every novel. She represent her woman character as rebellious and to awareness about her self-exploitation. Second Thought presents the agony and social pressure with cultural customs which followed by woman like Maya and her arid life issues emerging after marriage. The Novelist has taken mostly married women and capsulated the protagonist Maya. Maya, a married woman having the problems with related marriage and reflects her matrimony relationship. The present paper discusses the exploitation of woman Maya by her husband later uprising issues creates loneliness, alienation, emptiness of life. . She has been victimized by cultural, social and psychological point of view in the concept of ideal Indian woman. This novel is reflects for woman and cultural norms, social belief, cultural diversity, unequal distribution of gender, discrimination, the remarks of traditional mother in law in Indian society. It is custom of married to holding hand of her husband and his mother. Present paper focuses of the problem of married woman and her relationship with her husband .her ambition, feeling, and need as a human being. Novelist wants to focuses this through these points. 1. Indian concept of Marriage. 2. Causes of extra-marital affairs. 3. Psychoanalysis study of woman 4. Her revolts against system*

1. INTRODUCTION

Sophisticated Indian society is dominant by male. Women's exploitation and their secondary status is the root problem in Indian society. Indian society keeps aside in the term of secondary or marginalization of women. Shobha De's focuses the revolt against the contemporary Indian Society. Her woman characters cross the cultural rules and regulation, which put her aside called immoral. She satirically discussed the matrimony relationship and the concept is marriage and love which not disgust for so call Indian society.

Image of romance and sexuality creates a conflict in the mind of woman in her fiction and this conflict in the social and cultural code of the old and the new society. This conflict brings the necessity of moral definition for a woman in new society. love symbolizes the anarchy of self.



The novel **Second Thought** written by the **Shobha De's** Maya is the protagonist in this novel. She is pretty and beautiful belonging the middle class background in the Calcutta. She had some ambitions about her marriage and romance. She marrying Ranjan a handsome, hardworking and ambitious man with American degree. He has a wealthy background in the Calcutta. She had some ambitions about her marriage man with American Degree. Maya got all the prosperity and facilities but Maya search herself in Ranjan's life. Marriages displays the social, erotic and romantic conflict in the life of Maya. The novelist also expressed the women and men, their own satirical narrative. The narrator telling the social and psychological revelation form inside also discuss 'hollowness' in marriage relationship.

Maya's husband is very contrast with her. He is completely different to their desire, and totally ignorant about the sexual life. Because of this rudeness Maya's marriage life becomes mechanical, without communication relationship between her and her husband. They are only tolerating each other. Ranjan doesn't have the idea about Maya expectation from him as a husband.

Her integration about her husband and marriage,

"My Marriage went sour because I'd married the wrong man for the wrong reasons at the wrong time, he was just an average Indian husband unexciting, uninspiring, untutored (SE65)

Maya is the character highlights many married Indian women life but they mutely tolerate the situation. In this way they exploit and suffer their whole life. Indian wife's can't open their mind about their marriage life. In fact their openness might be called by Indian marriage wife's responsibility that she must satisfied her husband in their married life but she can't expect about satisfaction through her husband.

So this satirical narration by the novelist through the Maya. This agony or self-awareness. She presented woman Maya, exiles from her own family and distance from herself. She got all the expensive after her marriage with her husband without her husband love.

Ranjan is the Mamma's son and so he always think his Mother is god for him... As the wife Maya trapped in the miserable condition after her marriage. Ranjan is very modern person but he never wants to understand Maya feeling so Maya find herself lonely in small neat soulless flat. Most of the Indian couples are always crushed themselves emotionless marriages because of their parents arranged their marriage. After marriage they cannot creates a good and warmth relationship. Marriage is not only the bound but also one of the Sanskar in India. It's providing sexual relation and security for male and female. But Maya alienated from herself and confused in reality and illusions. Her mind and body consciously raising the question about her existence and her desires.

Though Maya's mother likes her husband Ranjan which is normally happens in arranged marriage. Indian Mother's are always care their daughter's Marriages. Maya's Mother is always conscious about her behavior her cloths and her limitation because of her female gender. Maya's mother not allow to anybody to come close and not be touched anywhere, one day she heard her mother saying.

"I have no worries where Maya is concerned, she is not like other girls. She is very pure and unspoiled" (page-259)

On the other side Ranjan is practical man Ranjan did not consider it important to anybody according to him if once mind is busy and one keep one self-active there cannot be time to worry about sex



One day Maya demand to go out together, at least on weeks ends Ranjan thinks her demand childish, life is not picnic according to him. Married woman should be learns to deal with responsibilities inspire that she must become a good cook like his mother.

India women's in India husbands expects many things what their parents or mother wants, Ranjan compares Maya with his mother. He did not think that Maya is different than his mother's generation One night Maya very sincerely puts up her problems.

'Ranjan, I have been so lonely...all alone in a city that is not mine; In a house I don't still feel I belong to(p 261).

Instead of understand the problem of his wife Maya. He was declared that her mind becomesick. He has warned her not to buy such thing to waste money without his permission.

Maya silent suffering without any complaints Ranjan is treats her one of the robotic a toy. Nobody needed her she is only one object which buys for her husband. She suffered alone in the family. She bear children who would belong to her.

Ranjan object to mix with other women her age. Or phone call with them. He told stayaway from those women Bombay women he argued that they have no moral, He dubbed them as lazyspoils and if she needed company or consolation then call my mother, she knows Bombay inside out (76)

Once Maya buy Basamati rice which annoys Ranjan and call it an extravagance and further advises she performs like a bear or any other advice her to find out from his mother where she gets supplies and buy the same brand (101)

When Ranjan's boss Tom comes for the special dinner and appreciates the artistic touch insidethe house, soon Ranjan puts in saying that is done by his mother a very artistic lady (p.122) he seems to be inferior to his wife Maya.

In office or when he is out of Bombay he didn't call to the Maya.it is natural that any married woman wants to little concern or care by her husband. Maya not only exploited physically but also emotionally by her husband. She expected a little love by her husband.

Novelist wants to show the ironical marriage life of a woman like Maya the pompiness of matrimony and rituals of marriage, which only doesn't by the because of husband mother and father .Indian girls faced 'showing' ceremony for her husband. All regular arranged marriage going on. But in reality what is about two persons who spend their life together? Is these typesof marriages successful in future or like Maya many girl victim in marriages. She didn't have place in her husband name and his heart. She spending her life only a showpiece or she performing act like an animal in circus where ringmaster gave the command to the animal and she performs like a bear or any other animal. This is agony not only Maya but also many women suffers in this marriage life. Being a mother is the right of each married woman but Ranjan keep away Maya from this also. She also have a necessities like human being. She wants to express herself and wants to prove herself.

Immorality or adultery is crime in every society. Indian women must be like a 'Sita' or 'Savitri'but this not expected from Indian male that they should be like 'Ram 'or 'Satyawar'. Ranjan is not capable to satisfy his wife physical and emotional needs.Ranjan doesn't it and Nikhil do it

Nikhil is the fourth floor neighbour's son.he is a junior than Maya and collegiate student.He was fishing Maya to his attractive appearance and behaviour. He is not interested in collegeand



lecture but to fishing woman in his net. In the very first encounter he ‘looked straight in to Maya’s eyes and smile (page no.18) and he asked question to Maya ‘should I call you ‘didi’? Maya answered that to call her whatever he felt comfortable. Nikhil trapped Maya because of her loneliness and alienation in her married life he could see his path open and no competitor in his destination so he is very clear aim to achieving. Maya is beautiful, educated, married woman. Nikhil understanding state of her mind. Maya also touched his attacking behaviour that any woman expected by male.

The novelist focused the conditions of Maya’s mind. Novelist expresses her feeling very softly that she unknowingly attracts toward Nikhil.

‘This was ridiculous- a newly married woman day-dreaming about a neighbour’s son.’ Disgusting shameful (page no. 32). She thinks about another side also.

In society we find many ‘Nikhil’ for the woman like ‘Maya’ to take advantages of woman and wants to attract her and developing sexual relationship.

Nikhil understanding the dissatisfy of Maya. At first Nikhil to offer a cassette or his songs to Maya and requesting her to allow her to listen for him. In first Maya get humanisation attitude and love from Nikhil. Nikhil is the boy who wants to enjoy the company of Maya.

In the present novel Shobha De present extra marital affairs with married woman and the college going boy Nikhil. She discuss the illegal relationship and exploitation of woman in the basic of physiological, physical and emotional level. This act done by Maya because of her husband miss behaviour and rudeness with her. Maya is thinking about her needs and finding the space from Nikhil.

Recently Indian Supreme courts has been permitted the laws for live-in- relationship and demolished the word ‘Illegal relationship’ it might be one of the revolutionary stand taken by government. On the other side marriage life is not only personal or private problem but it is affecting on both persons and family. Insecure future life for women.

2. REFERENCES:

1. Shobha De (1996): *Second Thought*, New Delhi: Penguin Books. p.73.