

Research Paper—English



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' CONTEMPORARY REALITY AND  
REVOLUTION OF MODERN WOMAN  
INSECOND THOUGHT'S BY SHOBHA DE.'



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" I did write with a great deal of empathy towards women without waving the feminist flag, I feel very strongly about the women's situation ." - Shobha De

Shobha De, the novelist fought spiritedly against all the traditional beliefs and moral values denouncing them as out of has gradually turned into an explicit annoyance and finally took the shape of an open rebellion since the ancient age, Women have written novels in plenty but their novels attempted pictures of life as it is seen through the eyes of men. But now shobha De breaks this world of English fiction by shifting from man's angle to woman's angle and emphasis from the external to the internal world. The primary requisite of novelist is that she should be a good observer ; that shobha De is. So she added new dimension with the exquisite perceptions of men and matter Her novels indicate the arrival of new Indian Women eager to defy rebelliously against the well entrenched moral orthodoxy of the patriarchal social system. She has scaled new heights of success as an Indian woman " Who breaks through rigid barrier"

In her 'Second Thought' shobha De attempts Women as the central figure & seems to Succeed in presenting the predicament of urban modern women with extraordinary ability and more effectively. She portrays the contemporary reality of urban women novelists. Maya, an attractive young girl is the central character of novel. She is trained as a textile designer with a dream of becoming a journalist and changing the world. She is fascinated by Bombay. When she meets Ranjan, she is more excited at the prospect of

setting in Bombay, the city of her dreams she feels-

" Marring Ranjan would make her a part of it immediately Maya knew she'd be bounded with Bombay forever "

Marriage ushers glamorous, fascination freedom love and joy for young girl. But Alas ! All their dreams come crashing down and they are doomed forever. Maya also faces the similar situation after her marriage with Ranjan. Ranjan tries to restrain Maya's freedom. She is not allowed to do any job and that contributes to the cause of conflict between Maya and Ranjan. Ranjan is awe of his mother and as a matter of fact, he worships her like goddess Maya realizes that irritates Maya to a great extent and he begins to neglect Maya. Maya realizes that their marriage is a Mis-marriage. Ranjan had married her to satisfy his mother and she had married him to get out of Calcutta. Maya experience her first shock during their honeymoon at a depressing hotel in Mahabaleshwar. On enquiring, he had told her that he slept with other women. There are many instances when Maya decides to take initiative and try her luck with him. Unfortunately she never succeeds and this annoys Ranjan to a great extent. After marriage, Ranjan expected her to be content with a decent house. Four square meals enough money and plenty of time for leisure. For him sex is not important issue in life. Perhaps she would have overcome the sex factor if she had been satisfied by Ranjan in other spheres of life. All her attempts to build up a relationship based on love, companionship and equality with Ranjan fails. He refuses to respond to her approaches and bars her

entry into his world. A desperate realization dawns on Maya that communication is impossible between them because their mind work of different wavelength. Ranjan being the only son of his mother moulded and shaped by his mother. He fully confides in her. In brief Maya wishes Ranjan to confide in her talk to her about his inner world, love her and have feel for her. She expects Ranjan to satisfy his physical & emotional needs Maya needs someone to love her. She turns to Nikhil who is a college boy, her neighbour. It comes as soft breeze as a contrast to her predictable existence on hand she thought that it is ridiculous for a newly married woman daydreaming about her neighbour's son and other hand, her dreams and desires once again surface and she suddenly sees the spectacular rainbow across the sky.

One of the most structured pattern of the Indian society is the role assigned to man and woman- woman is the follower, man the leader woman is the sufferer and the man is ordainer. The soft and cozy shell of matrimony which most Indian women snugly fit can break any day and leave the couple exposed to horror and trauma. Maya leaves her parent's home and enters into her husband's home in Bombay but very soon she realizes the fruit of her decision. She wanted to be

loved and happy she is not loved by the man she loves. The woman in order to achieve her freedom seeks marriage as an alternative to the bondage created by the parental family. She resents the role of a daughter and looks forwards the role of a wife with the hope that the new role will help her in winning her freedom. But she experiences disillusionment in sex and suffer a silent humiliation. Marriage proves to be an another trap and Maya feel like a caged animal.

Thus we can conclude that Maya through her own education has been made aware of her individuality. She emerges from a passive role to the point of discovering and asserting her individuality, liberty and identity. Novelist throws light in the traditional marriage where the woman has to suffer a lot like Maya. Maya is sandwiched between herself centred, unsympathetic & unresponsive husband & Nikhil who is kind helpful sympathetic & full of life who cares for her. She challenges the traditional concept of Indian wife, the mental harassment and the torture is passionately delineated truthfully in all its minute details by Shobha De. To assume that a revolution would overnight make a woman equal to man would be nothing short of demagoguery. Should their condition change ?

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## **R E F E R E N C E**

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