



Research Paper

Expression Of Emotions: Represented In The Women Characters In The Novel Nectar In A Sieve.

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ABSTRACT: The earthly society is much indeed of expression of emotions more than intellectual potential. Literature along with the other function help to nurture the emotional intelligence through various emotional experience. In today's life, the portrayal of emotions take part as a major role and it helps to know what one's feelings are and use this knowledge to make effective decisions. Kamala Markandaya's novel *Nectar in a Sieve* has very well-portrayed the strong emotional intelligence of the characters of Rukmani, Ira and, Kunthi. In each of the characters, they conquer the hardship of their existence. The stress, tensions and, sentimental experience has been successfully introduced in Kamala Markandaya's women characters in the novel *Nectar in a Sieve*. Here the novelist also searches for supremacy of social hierarchy and emergence of the individuality of women.

KEYWORDS: Emotional intelligence, hardship, sentimental experience, effective decisions, women, social hierarchy, individuality.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Emotion is a powerful spirit in the body, so by adding your consciousness of the energy changes within you and the energy interchange with others, we become more successful at managing emotions. In the early times, there are different layers of hegemony forced on the woman in society. They live a vulnerable life as an "unsafe soul" who suppresses their emotions and their silent cries cannot be heard by the earthly society. Thus, the need for expressing emotions is very much essential for the individuality of women. Being a woman novelist Kamala Markandaya has brought mainly women characters into existence. She aimed at establishing equal rights and extrapolated the experiences of women without making differences based on class and gender. The Indian novels mainly portrayed the sacrificing and suffering of women but Kamala Markandaya has a hunt for a New Woman who look for self-fulfillment, self-expression and there has been progressing in the lives and attitudes of women.

Nectar in a Sieve is the first novel by Kamala Markandaya published in 1954 and in 1955 it became notable work in the American Library Association. Her novels present a savage tale of ignorance, suppression of emotions, mental and physical bludgeoning that the women are subjected to. Being a woman herself Kamala Markandaya inherits an innate propensity to search on the unfortunate situation of women. *Nectar in a Sieve* represents the practical existent of rural India and defines the honesty of the life of Indian women through the protagonist of the novel Rukmani. Markandaya was very emotionally connected to Indian society. This is portrayed in her novel *Nectar in a Sieve*. This work pictures a traditional image of a woman and how women are tortured emotionally and physically in this orthodox society.

The setting of the story takes place in the south Indian villages of India. The story begins with a woman named Rukmani, the youngest of the four daughters of a rich village headman who is married to a poor peasant named Nathan. The story then revolves around the life events of Rukmani, Ira, and Kunthi. Each woman absorbs all misfortunes that come their way and their calm acceptance of reality where they suppress their emotions and later the expressing of emotions help them to make better decisions in their life.

II. CONTRASTING EXPRESSION OF EMOTIONS OF THE FEMALE CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL NECTAR IN A SIEVE

Post-Colonial literature means the literature and works written by writers after independence from the European Imperial powers. *Nectar in a Sieve* is one such novel written by the famous Indian writer Kamala Markandaya. The novel is a sensitive and moving portrayal of a woman who is troubled with forces beyond her control; it is a story about the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of values. This is not only the story of Rukmani but also of all the women who endured the same suffering. Unlike the olden days, women of the present age have a lot of social support and they have a free will to make choices of their own. Education has played a major role in empowering women of this era, Women actively participate in every sector and have proved to be more efficient than men by balancing both household and also their professional life. Kamala Markandaya, in her novel, illustrated a woman who even though wasn't much educated and had barely any social support, still strived and won the battle of life, hence they are emotionally strong. The female protagonist in the novel resists and then reconciles to the changes in her environment. The protagonist of the novel Rukmani is depicted as an emotionally strong and bold lady in the novel, she does not allow any unpleasant situation to destroy her. She has married off at a very young age to Nathan a poor farmer. Rukmani displays a remarkable calmness throughout the novel even when she takes solid decisions like adopting a child she uses this composure as a weapon against the suffering she experiences. After she is married off to Nathan she notes about the progress in sexuality as well as mental development which is very revolutionary in those times. There is a kind of hope which she develops after her wedding that in a few years they can save money and build a new home this is another instance where her strong emotional will is expressed and she is also able to adjust to the new way of living she accepts the reality both her wedding to a farmer and the house, eventually her love for agricultural lifestyle is notable she has acclimated herself to life as a farmer's wife. Even though Rukmani is not dwelling in poverty, her daily life is strenuous. However, unlike her neighbors, Rukmani will retaliate to unpleasant events in a kind and obliging manner. Rukmani encounters a snake in her small garden by which she is both bewitched and terrified. Despite always seen obsessed with such catastrophic events Rukmani refrains from getting too involved and maintaining a mental stillness. Even though she experiences different instances in her life, she experiences different emotions which makes her a courageous lady. Kunthi is another contrasting character to Rukmani where she plays a less conventional view of women's role. Kunthi is not able to accept the reality of life, She resents what she is told to do regardless of her husband's social status she is not contented. Rukmani was upset when Ira was born. But everything changes when she grows up as a beautiful girl who is liked by the villagers and who shares a strong bond with her parents than her brothers. Her position in the family helps in breaking the stereotypes about the ill-treatment of women in the community. She is a character who is obedient and has an uncomplaining nature. Even though she was depressed when her husband abandoned her she overcomes it with the birth of her little brother Kuti. She is depicted as a revolutionary character in the novel, who breaks all the social norms eg. being a prostitute and bearing an illegitimate child. She thinks that saving a life is more important than following social norms. All the women characters in this novel are seen expressing different emotions and holding on to the hope that things would soon take a turn for the better.

III. CONCLUSION

Kamala Markandaya is a writer who was influenced by the simple life of a village, their sufferings, poverty, hunger, and various problems faced by women. Rukmani's story could be any women's story. Rukmani even though has only miseries going on in her life she dares to face and battle against all these obstacles to possess the high emotional capability to handle problems. She is in search of self-realization amidst all the chaos. Most women in fiction or reality are trapped in the name of tradition and customs, even today no matter how educated a woman is Indian society still expects women to behave in a particular manner. The novel *Nectar in a Sieve* and the characters Rukmani, Ira all are an inspiration to modern-day women. When we dare to express our emotions it helps us to be a better person in life. Kamala Markandaya in the novel states that "She was no longer a child to be cowed or forced into submission, but a grown woman with a definite purpose and an invincible determination."

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