

## Gender studies in the Short Stories of Shashi Deshpande

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### Abstract:


The short story is concerned with a single effect conveyed in only one or a few significant episodes or scenes. It encourages economy of setting, concise narrative, and the omission of a complex plot; character is disclosed in action and dramatic encounters but is seldom fully developed. In the post-independence era, Women writers started portraying Indian life, with all its different hues and aspects. This paper shows the women's condition. A woman acts as a daughter, wife, and mother in a house. It is expected that she should be obedient, docile, timid, and submissive.

Shashi Deshpande's short stories highlight the change towards which our society is moving. But, millions of miles need to be covered for this change to be visible. All stories deal with the challenges which are to be won, the tough time of decision-making, and the struggle to get whatever a woman desires. Recent Indian Women's writings have a delineation of inner life and subtle interpersonal relationships. The woman is still in search of self-respect, happiness, new culture, individualism, sexual freedom, the quest for identity, protests, and concepts of rebelliousness have often remained alien ideas. She shows a realistic and authentic picture of women in her stories. Earlier, women were not supposed to raise their voices for their rights, protest against injustice or question already existing beliefs, customs, rituals, and blind beliefs. They were exploited by the patriarchal system in the name of custom and tradition. There is a gender bias. She provides a window for her rights into the world of women. Her ultimate goal is to gain freedom, self-respect, and love, but still, she is despised for being independent and having a voice of her own.

**Keywords:** Identity, patriarchy, marriage, loneliness, search, society, relationship, gender, freedom, exploitation, etc.

### Introduction:

Shashi Deshpande is one of the eminent Indian writers in English. She was born in the small town of Dharwad in 1938. Her father was Adya Rangachar Sriranga, the renowned Kannada playwright, described as the 'Bernard Shaw' of the Kannada theatre. She was educated in Bangalore and Bombay, she has done an M.A. in English from Mysore University, Karnataka. She married Dr. Deshpande, a neuropathologist, and visited England in 1969. She became very popular as a novelist. She published an account of her experiences as short stories. Her short stories had been collected in five volumes: The Legacy and Other Stories (1978), It Was Dark and Other Stories (1986), It Was the Nightingale and Other Stories (1986), The Miracle and Other Stories (1986), and The

  
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