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## Gender Inequality in *Feminism*

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### ABSTRACT

“No struggle can ever succeed without woman participating by side with men” these quotes were said by Muhammed Ali Jinnah. A woman is like a tea bag how strong she is until we put her in hot water. Men always want to be man's first love, women like to be a man's last romance. The word feminism is currently defined as the theory of the political economical and social equality. Gender is the common theme whereas gender discrimination is meant only for woman because females are the only victims of the gender inequality. The novel that long silence is an articulation of the silence of the modern Indian house wife, who was fallen as victims of gender discrimination and inequality in a conservative male-dominated society. Though many women tried to voice this issue, they could only provide psychological depths to their characters. But Shashi Deshpande's success lies in her representation of real life experience. She realistically depicts the inner conflicts of Jaya and her quest for the self or identity and her mental sufferings by her married life and her anger towards the gender discrimination.

**Keywords:** Self-Identity, suppression of female, male domination and inequality.

Shashi Deshpande is an award winning Indian novelist. She was born on 1938 in Dharwad, Karnataka, India, and educated in Bombay. She studied economics and graduated in law from Bangalore. She later received an M.A., in English Literature. She received an English education at a protestant mission school in Karnataka. As a school girl, she read the great British classical novels in English and particularly liked the work of Jane Austen. She began her career with short stories. Her subjects are the realities of women's lives and the truths that lie behind their silence. She turned into the voices of behind the silence.

She has been classified as a feminist because of her concern with women characters and the situations in which they find themselves. She believes that she simply writes about what she sees around her, and that her ideas follow naturally. That long silence novel was published on 1986. She won the Sahitya Akademi award for the novel that long silence in 1990 and the Padma Sri Award in 2009.

“No struggle can ever succeed without woman participating side by men”, these quotes were said by Muhammed Ali Jinnah. A woman is like a tea bag, we do not know how strong she is until men put her in hot

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water Shashi Deshpande's canvas abounds in women characters as victims of the gross gender inequality. In the novel that long silence is an articulation of the silence of the modern Indian house wife, who was fallen as victims of gross gender discrimination and inequality in a conservative male dominated society. That long silence is a realistic view of a true feminist on the criticism of the condition of middle class women. It is not an imaginary story but the story of every middle class educated woman in India. The Indian women is born to an era where there is much awareness about her rights, her liberty to express her ideas, freedom to enjoy finance and the chance to stand for a cause. Jaya, the protagonist of the novel, she is an educated middle class woman who lives with her husband, Mohan and two children, Rahul and Rati. Her father brought up Jaya as an individual who has the rights as well as other gender in the society but it is the same society.

As an Indian feminist writer who is known for her stories on marriage, family life and toil of Indian women cloistered by the pressure and expectation of society at large. She has often used her own experiences and translated them into her stories. This story is based on the life of the protagonist named Jaya. Even as a young girl Jaya has always been curious, clever and spright. She should be more accommodating and understanding like other girls as they all have to go their in-laws' house one day and use such powers of adjustment and compromise. As the years goes, Jaya gets married to Mohan, a family friend. Mohan gets transferred to Bombay and the young couple has to relocate. They adjust nicely to the new city and are blessed with a son named Rahul and a daughter named Rati. Jaya's life is devoted to her husband and kids and she finds solace in their care. However, the bliss does not last long as Mohan is embroiled in the complaint of forgery at his workplace and it became his downfall and he is named in the official enquiry along with his friend and principle culprit, Agarwal. Mohan and Jaya are advised to move from their place in Churchgate, Bombay to an impoverished flat in Dadar. They move into the dingy place leaving the kids to their neighbours. They are visited by their relatives in their new house especially Jaya's sister Kusum, who is grieving after a recent split from her husband. Her afflictions have a negative impact on the family life oh Mohan and Jaya. Meanwhile, they are hit financially as the enquiry causes Mohan to lose his job, at this juncture, he need's Jaya's

comforting words and presence but Jaya finds it hard to shares hid grief. Their relationship is strained and they both grew apart. One day Jaya's brother Ravi sees her in the market and comments on her husband's state. When Mohan learns about his brother-in-law's harsh words he develops further rancor with his wife. They became so estranged that Mohan eventually leaves the house and Jaya. Jaya is troubled by her ghosts of the past, difficult childhood memories, dashed hopes as a writer, disappointment in the grooming of her kids etc. Lone and depressed Jaya realizes her fault in not helping her husband when he needed her support and encouragement and rather stranding him at his hour of need. To make things worse even her son Rahul goes missing and she is helped and consoled by her neighbours and friends but she finds it difficult to find her lost peace.

She recognizes that the 'long silence' that had crept between the two and hoe it destroyed. Furthermore, She recognizes the long silence within herself that she had been neglecting since her childhood. Things do take an upbeat turn when gets a telegram from Mohan informing her of his imminent return. Even the enquiry at work is completed and he gives a reprieve. In the end, Jaya transforms into a new woman after going through the period of struggle, doubt and loneliness. She feels determined to never again let such 'long silence' come between the two or within herself.

Shashi Deshpande is one of the famous contemporary Indian novelists in English. Basically she writes the situation of women and their failures in the fast changing socio-economic of India. In that long silence as elsewhere Deshpande raises her strong voice of protest against the male - dominated Indian society and against man-made rules and conventions. Feminism is defined as culture, economic and political movements that are focused towards establishing legal protection and complete equality for the women sector. That long silence is the story of the Jaya, the protagonist, who remains a sufferer in her childhood and adulthood. As a young girl, she is chiled by her grandmother for her witty nature. For seventeen long years, Jaya managed to suppress her family Deshpande makes Jaya a writer of woman's magazine fiction.

The novel reveals the hollowness of modern Indian life. Though she is a writer, Jaya has not achieved true self expression. There is a something almost

suffocating about the narrowness of the narrator's life. Feminist is the central idea. It seeks to study that individual freedom, doubt, conflict, revive, disorder, confusion, loneliness, exile and search for identity forms the features of feminism. The novel that long silence presents a realistic image of educated middle class women, story of Jaya, a housewife and mother of two teenaged children and is a writer in her free time. Jaya's life resembles any typical Indian housewife, compromising for family before oneself, suffering silently until she gets a vibration when her husband is fired from his work with charges of fraud. To my tastes, this might be the perfect feministic novel. As Jaya comes back to her old house through the recollection of the past events, she realizes that though she had the ability to make her own decision, she had always left it to the others to do it for her and this becomes an adding point to Jaya's distress also the guilt. She carries shock her further and at the end she realizes what she actually needs. After the husband leaves her, Jaya understands

that though she has not had an intimate relationship with Mohan. She is unable to live alone as she always had remained dependent. It is when Jaya reveals to the readers her collection of memory and the guilt she carries the story gets more interesting. Finally Jaya decides to continue with her marriage, it is not because she is accepting the traditional way of role as a wife ; on the contrary, she has rejected all the traditional ideas of the roles in the course of her thinking. As she says, she has begun to see the world differently. Thus, Shashi Deshpande is portraying the woman's quest for being herself and want to get out from the world of discrimination.

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