

Dr. BRR GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE JADCHERLA

Department of English



A PROJECT REPORT

ON

**A COMPARITIVE STUDY OF WOMAN CHARACTERS CREATED BY R
K NARAYAN AND ANITHA NAIR**

Submitted By

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DECLARATION

We are hereby declare that the study project: **A COMPARITIVE STUDY OF WOMAN CHARACTERS CREATED BY R K NARAYAN AND ANITHA NAIR**

is a record of work done by us under the supervision of *Dr.P. Narahari Murthy*, Asst.Prof. in English, Government Degree College, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar District and that the project has not been previously done by any others in this college and any other college/University.

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Date : 27/06/2022

Place : Jadcherla

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Study project on **A COMPARITIVE STUDY OF WOMAN CHARACTERS CREATED BY R K NARAYAN ANDANITHANAIR** is a bonafide Project work done by B.A I students listed below,

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under my supervision in Government Degree College, Jadcherla, Telangana.

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A COMPARITIVE STUDY OF WOMAN CHARACTERS CREATED BY R K NARAYAN AND ANITHA NAIR

EXPLORING THE ASPECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS INFLUENCING THEIR EXISTENTIAL PREDICAMENTS

Introduction

Rasipuram Krishnaswamy Narayan was a pioneer in establishing the cannon of Indian English Fiction. He created Malgudi the typical south Indian town like Thomas Hardy's Wessex and William Faulkner's Yokhonophowtphah County. Narayan's novels represent sound Indian middle class life in its varied form

R K Narayan's very first novel 'The Swami and Friends' which came out in 1935 motivated the educationist Prof. Yeshpal to formulate the strategy to enable burdenless education for children which culminated in 'Learn without burden'. His association with Nobel laureate, author Graham Greene vivisected his art of writing fiction and infused it with intensified creative powers. R K Narayan is well known for his series of popular novels like English Teacher, Vendor of Sweets, Financial Expert, Man Eater of Malgudi, Waiting for Mahatma etc., He is also well known for his short stories 'A Horse and Two Goats', 'Under the Banyan Tree', 'An Astrologers Day' etc., fills the reader with the feeling of aesthetic pleasure and satisfactions of having read a good story. Typical South Indian middle class family life finds its full expression in his works. Narayan was not just writer of fiction. He is also the critic and the supporter of woman's rights which found abundant space in 'The Dark Room'. Sashi Tharoor Compared R K Narayan's works with those of Jane Austen's who was an early nineteenth century author of English middle class ethos and mores. Narayan was awarded Padma Vibhushan and Sahitya Akademi Award.

'The Guide' is a magnum opus by R K Narayan which was published in 1958. It's greatness is recognized by bestowing Sahitya Akademi Award on it. The movie The Guide is the blend of philosophy, fiction and elements of supernatural blended with the faith of mortals in it. Bollywood stars of bygone era Dev Anand and Waheeda Rehaman acted as leading stars in the film 'Guide'. 'The English Teacher', 'Mr. Sampath', 'The Financial Expert', 'The Dark Room', 'The Vendor of the Sweets', 'Man Eater of Malgudi', 'Waiting for Mahathma' are the novels which abound with the women characters like Rosy, Savithri, Rangi, Laxmi, etc., who are from various walks of life. R K Naraya's novels abound in the subject matter of south Indian domestic life and perception of life in its varied form.

Anita Nair is wellknown for her fiction and poetry. She is famous for her novels 'The Better Man' and 'Ladies Coupe', these works are translated into more than twenty languages. Like R K Naryana, Anita Nair also belongs to South India. She says in an interview to Youtube channel that as a woman writer she has to validate herself in Indian society which is prejudiced towards gender issues. Her poetic collection 'Malabar Mind' reflect her ideas of life in Indian society particularly south Indian landscape is exploited to explore the vagaries of life in its fullness. She has also tested her pen at writing Children's literature which came under the title 'The Puffin Book of Myths and Legends' Her Historical fiction 'Idris:Keeper of the Light' which was published in 2014 mingled the past with present scenario.

In Ladies Coupe, Anita highlights the inequality when it comes to gender issues in our society. She shows that with the help revolution and fighting spirit women can achieve justice but not by self abnegation and self subjugation. Akhila in 'Ladies Coupe' is a middle aged women belonged to Brahmin caste, she was taught by her mother that a perfect woman is she who conforms herself to the norms set by the society and patriarchal system. Janaki, Haseena, Sheela, Margaret Shanthi, Prabha Devi are the other characters whose is burdened with the male dominated ideology prevailed in patriarchal system. Lack of communication

and steady growth of the feeling of alienation impacts married life, it is fret with the danger of uncontrolled damage to nuptial life, the same theme is evident in her novel 'Mistress' Saadiya, Sister Faith, Angela are the woman characters whose existence is surrounded by the themes of marriage, faith, and domesticity of conjugal bliss. 'The Better Man' is the novel which is Malabar region of northern part of Kerala. Mukundan and his village Kakurussi pain the plot with their presence where naxalite movement was holding the sway in Kerala. 'Lessons in Forgetting' introduces us to Meera's life who was well groomed corporate wife and whose husband was having a successful career, on the other hand 'Smriti' J A Krishnamurthy's daughter, a victimized woman in a male dominated society in which women can be considered endangered species.

The two Writers Rasipuram Krishswami Narayan and Anitha Desai are separated by the gulf of nearly six to seven decades, yet their characterization particularly women characters in their socio economic circumstances evinces special interest in us to make a detailed study probing their psyche and propagation of ideas of womanhood and gender issues.

Objectives :

1. I explore the nature of character creation by the both writers R K Narayan and Anita Nair laying special emphasis on women characterization.
2. Our society is predominantly male oriented, women is considered second to men and as as the symbols of passivity. It is evident when Savitri has to rely on her husband Ramani for even to decide which curry she shall prepare for supper in Naraya's novel 'Dark Room' I will explore the mechanism of patriarchal dominance which in some way exploits women counterparts.

3. For patriarchy to survive, even women support it in its full vitality. The subservient woman who guides the following women generation of their daughters and daughters-in-law to be allegiant to the male dominance are also the culprits who support ignorance and exploitation. I will analyze such characters who are present in the works of the above writers.
4. Domestic violence and interior colonization are the tentacles which maraud with women's dignity of life. At many instances they work as silent oppressors. It was there decades ago, it is here in post modern world. I highlight in my study the aspects of women subjugation with the help of domestic violence and interior colonization.
5. R k Narayan represents Indian society of pre Independence and aftermath decades of post independence whereas Anita Nair represents our contemporary society that witnessed Information Technology revolution and deep space explorations. Yet society is still fret with the dangers of feticides and child marriages. My study will concentrate on the issues of gender inequality subjugation of the in the name of religion and culture comparing the pre independent times to the times of our present generation taking the heed from Anita Nair and R K Narayan.
6. R K Narayan created an imaginary typical south Indian town called Malgudi, on the other hand Anita Nair selected Malabar region of Northern Kerala for much of her work. My study will focus on the socio-environmental issues in relation to woman characters in their works. Both represented south India but one is of 1950s and other one is of 2000s, so the time has changed economic conditions have changed, outlook on life and family has changed. I will probe the nature of change in women's life in relation to the above two represented periods of times.
7. Chapter 1. First chapter will be dedicated to analyze the works of R K Narayan highlighting the woman characters he created

8. Chapter 2. Second chapter will discuss the works of Anita Nair exploring the relation of women characters with their immediate men counterparts.
9. Chapter 3. The third chapter will carry out the elaborated discussion of comparative elements present among the women characters of both R K Narayan and Anita Nair highlighting their predicaments
10. Chapter 4. I will employ Louis Althusser's ideas of Ideological Repressive Structures, and Repressive State ideological apparatuses which colonize women along with their belief systems so that they can be subservient to exploitative measures employed by patriarchy.
11. Chapter 5. Chapter five will discuss the real life incidents in the lives of the authors which were ultimately reflected in their works. For example 'My Days' by R K Narayan consists of his autobiographical elements. Anita Nair's interview by various media channels about her life and experiences will supply me with ample material to fathom the impact of life incidents in creating the characters of their fiction. I will personally interview Anita Nair regarding her view on feministic issues present in her works.
12. Chapter 6. It contains references which I accepted for the meaningful direction I need to take for the successful completion of the thesis work.
13. R K Narayan's Novels 'Swami and Friends', 'The English Teacher', 'Mr.Sampath', 'The Painter of Signs', 'The Guide', 'The Vendor of Sweets', 'The Dark Room', 'Man Eater of Malgudi', his collection of short stories 'A Horse and Two Goats' 'Under the Banyan Tree' etc. will be studies I detail for my course work.
14. Anita Nair's 'Ladies Coupe', 'Mistress', 'Lessons in Forgetting', Idris''Keeper of the Light', 'SquattingSquirrel', Living Next Door to Alise', 'The Lilac's House',

'The Better Man' will compose my course work in order to evaluate Anita Nair's women characters in the light of gender bias and oppression.

15. Antonio Gramsci's Hegemony and Louis Althusser's Ideological apparatuses will help the understanding of the power structures entwined in the domestic life of the women from the above authors. I will study the 'Prison Notes' by Antonio Gramsci and Louis Althusser's work Lenin and Philosophy and other Essays as guiding lamps in my exploration of the socio-economic condition and their influence on the characters' creation.

16. I take personal interviews of Anita Nair and collect direct data regarding her view about gender, society, and politics as it is noted that women are not born but created, her view will help in understanding her works in a better manner.

17. Review of Literature:

18. In his research article 'Women Subjugation and Empowerment in Anita Nair's 'Ladies' Coupé', appeared in April-June issue of International Journal of English Language, Literature and Translation Studies, written by Rajesh Reddy B L notes that writers with true concern towards the present predicament of women use their literary medium for awakening of the human conscience which affects dormancy towards the pitiful condition of the woman. In another work 'A Study of Women Character in R K Narayan's Guide' which appeared in International Journal of Research in Engineering, Social Sciences, January 2015 issue written by Dr. Ashok Kumar highlights R K Narayan's Craftsmanship by saying 'R K Narayan holds a unique place among the greatest Indian writers writing in English. In his novels, Narayan depicts Indian life and sensibility in its pristine glory. He is essentially a writer of middle class characters of Malgudi' .. These two scholars explored at length the greatness of R K Narayan and Anita Nair in their distinctive style of narration and

characterization. Anita Nair dedicating her artistic talent to the life of her character in the contemporary socio cultural situation, R K Narayan on the other hand mingled with his own contemporary context in rendering his characters with life and agility. 'Portrayal of Women in R K Narayan's The Guide' is a research article that is published in AGU International Journal of Research in Social Sciences & Humanities which is published in July – December issue of 2017 written by Asst. Prof. T Pushpanathan in which it is significantly observed that Narayan's Rosy strength lies in her inwardness, like that of Helen in Howards's End of E M Forster. The women character created by these writers are personifications of self reliance and perfect composure.

19. Many scholars and critics have fathomed the depth of the characters of both R K Narayan and Anita Nair, my work especially focuses on the comparative and contrastive elements of women characterization in their works in relation to their socioeconomic conditions. No scholar hitherto ventured to compare the works of Anita Nair with those of R K Narayan. It created a gap in understanding Indian women and their predicaments in their fullness from generation to generation as RK Narayan would be discussing the life of the great grandmother whose great granddaughter find her space in Anita Desai's Novel. By understanding and comparing the lives and travails of both Great Grandmother and Great Granddaughter, we can understand the nature and consequences of their predicaments in Indian society.

