Appendix

INTERVIEW

Shobhaa De, is at once a model, journalist, novelist and mother of six children. Her few novels have been prescribed in some of the university syllabus. The researcher had the opportunity to meet the author and had interview for 20 minutes on Women’s Day 8th March 2006 when she came down to Chennai to celebrate the success of her latest publication

Spouse: Tie Truth About Marriage.

I. What is the reaction of Shobhaa De on being dubbed as ‘Empress of Sex’,

I have the right to write about sex like any other counter part. It is important for me to bring women’s sexuality into my writing. Sex in Starry Nights is depressing when I read it now. Sex is very sad and is treated as a commodity. I assert my right about sex like any other matter. Never about free sex.
2. Does Shobhaa De see herself as a Feminist writer?

I do not infuse feminism into my writing. I feel strongly about women and feel instinctively connected to other women.

3. What is Shobhaa De’s reaction to be considered as a controversial writer?

In the 60s, 70s and 80s in India particularly there was no great deal of writing so explicitly about sensitive matters and by a woman. It demanded courage to undertake the journey. I assert myself.

4. How far the book Spouse would help to make a marriage happy one?

The book is not sociological but one woman’s stand. It is not fixing any marriage. It reveals so much about human relationships and I believe that marriage is the most complex and most difficult of all commitments.
5. Why *marriage is difficult, in Shobhaa De’s opinion?*

Very often committing to spend your best of life with a person, you know very little about is a huge step and it is far easy to get into a business relationship than into a marriage where you have to protect your right too.

6. How marriage works In tie view of Shobhaa De?

You have to go into it with hundred percent of your self with that kind of just ‘love’. I don’t get a better word.

7. How far Shobhaa De’s novels are realistic?

It is not about realism. It is about fantasy. So it doesn’t matter what’s real and what’s not. It is whether a good story, whether it engages you as a reader, whether you involve with the character, whether you care about the characters, whether you like the story? That’s it. It doesn’t matter how real it is. It is not a reports. It is not an article in a science journal which can be factually elaborated. It’s not about that. It is about what we see and what we wish about any human condition.
8. What type of books does Shobhaa De read?

Vikram Seth, R.K.Narayan, Amitav Gosh, contemporary International writers, and Dickensit, who are remembered for music, simple wonderful story telling and very new, very young writers.

9. Why Shobhaa De believes in marriage in spite of so many marriages collapsing?

Mine is a very optimistic look at marriage. I believe that this is one institution that has survived centuries with much in an intact original, form. We haven’t come up with better alternative to marriage, we tried it all. We tried single parenting, multiple partners, polygamy, we tried it all. There must be something about it that made its survival enjoyable. Because changed are the rules, rules are changing connotatively gradually. It is not anymore like it was in my generation or in my grandmother’s generation. Definitely not. It is not actually two people committing rest of their life together to stay in a family and nothing is changed. Nurturer and provider roles are sometimes overlapping.
10. Docs Shobhaa De think, really marriages will work after 70s aid 80s for women?

Really it worked for my parents very well. It is a very proactive very very, lively, wonderful marriage with humor and lot of sharing so why shouldn’t it in 70s and 80s also. Age has nothing to do with it. It could work as well for 60 plus and 80 years old. It depends on your attitude. Why should women, be questioned with compatibility? Why not men?

11. How does Shobhaa D6 react to when a statistical picture is demanded on the workability of man or woman in marriage between sixty and eighty?

Sorry I am not a sociologist.

12. What Shobhaa De enjoys doing most?

Writing is a craft. I enjoy writing, enjoy editing. I enjoy every word I write. So it is not only columns or novels.
13. **What does Shobhaa De say about her novels?**

   Each book has each story. After a point the book takes on its own course.

14. Does Shobhaa De find any resemblance between Karuna and her own earlier stage? Why does Shobhaa De feel Anjali the protagonist and mot Karuna?

   Anjali is the character who achieves what she desires, Karuna is a reflection on my early experiences? Not all it has but some relevance. Karuna is an inexperienced one, young girl making into a corporate woman.

15. **What is Shobhaa De’s answer to the critic who finds Selective Memory very selective?**

   No. All the three areas have been covered. I don’t think I have left anything.

16. **What is Shobhaa De’s contribution to the society through her books?**

   It’s up to you. What you get from my book. No matter what it means.
17. Does the three years academic learning has its impact on Shobhaa Dé’s writing?

It was fifty years ago. It is not relevant anymore.

18. Shobhaa Dé has dealt only with the particular group of the society why?

My books are not for the rural audience. It is about the upper class people those who belong to the elite society and my audiences are also the same group.
19. What is Shobhaa De’s view on fiction?

It is a real challenge to make fiction amazing. Fun of fiction breaking all the rules. And writing for me is livelihood.