ABSTRACT

The area of my proposed research work is to study the versatility of the veteran writer Shobhaa De. The study will dig into the graceful lady’s tortuous career journey. She is the person who does not require any introduction. For the uninitiated, she is an author, socialite, celebrity, former beauty queen and model, columnist, designer and pen behind popular TV serials like Kitty Party and Swabhimaan. Stardust, Society and Celebrity magazines still have her traces. Coming from an otherwise orthodox family, the dynamic De started her career in the glitzy field of modeling and created quite a buzz on the ramp. Shobhaa, in her sixties is followed as a style diva even today. She transited from her glam profession to a literary career in Journalism. Having some renowned names like Stardust, Society, and Celebrity to her credit, Shobhaa is a known columnist today. An indolent American journalist even called her Jackie Collins of India in the Times magazine. Taking her name evokes a mixed response. For every one person who hates her, there are many more who love her and inspiration from her gutsy demeanor. Either ways she isn’t a name you can ignore. Everyone in India has an opinion on her, even if they probably don’t have the same on the country’s state of affairs or even their own personal lives. She has exuberance for life.

To bring to light the versatility of this persona the thesis is distributed over six chapters. Starting with introduction the study covers various sides of her personality. The second chapter talks about the other women writers in English which helps us to compare and contrast the work of others in this field. Thereafter, the remaining four chapters talk about how she differs from all others and why she got all the publicity and hype. At the same time there are certain misconceptions about the author as she is tabooed as an unethical writer. Why are there such myths about her and why she is not what she is ascribed as is also the purpose of this study.

The thesis is spread over six chapters. Each chapter unfurls a layer of the multilayered personality, a new and versatile side of Shobhaa De.

Chapter 1: Introduction
Shobhaa De is known for her bold writing. Some take this as an asset whereas others criticize it as being immoral and unethical. But whatever opinion one holds about her she really has an aura around herself. She has many sides of her which are acknowledged by people in parts but on the whole nobody has realized that she is a lady who is multitasking, multifarious and a bundle of assorted personality who can manage various skills with ease.

**Chapter 2: Women writers in English**

Exploring some of the English women writers in India and trying to study their personalities so as to equip one to study the general persona of the writers and thereby study how Shobhaa De differs and stands out among them.

**Chapter 3: Versatile style of Shobhaa De**

This chapter is to get the general introduction of Shobhaa De and also to study her multifarious arena. This is done to study the various aspects of the writer and to get a briefing into her dynamic traits.

**Chapter 4: Shobhaa De’s dynamism**

Shobhaa De began her versatile character as a model. How she got into modeling and how far could she establish herself in this profession is the purpose of this chapter.

Shobhaa De shifted her modeling career and moved on to become a journalist. What motivated her to take such a big leap from one profession to other which was poles apart is the matter to reckon with.

This chapter also aims to study Shobhaa De’s talent as a script writer as well. What motivated her into plunging into this arena is really amazing.

Shobhaa De has been working as a columnist for quite a time now. This chapter digs into her talent to establish herself as a well read columnist.
Shobhaa De has a well read blog with a lot of fan following. Her blog is freewheeling and spontaneous. Therefore it offers a lot into studying Shobhaa De’s mettle.

Shobhaa De has also made an entry into the world of designing. From pen to palette, she has left her mark in all the areas. This chapter will throw light into Shobhaa De’s talent over and above writing.

Besides the above stated personas she also excels in sports and various other activities. This chapter will throw light on her other sides also which showcased themselves in small amounts.

**Chapter 5: Shobhaa De – A novelist with a difference**

Shobhaa De has written many novels and they are well read in India and abroad. One of her novels is also prescribed as a syllabus in London University. Therefore her novels have a lot to offer to study about her writing style. Some of her books are:

*SOCIALITE EVENINGS* tells the story of Karuna, a prominent Bombay socialite to escape the nightmare of a broken marriage, failed relationship and a mentally disturbed sister.

*STARRY NIGHTS* is the harrowing story of Aasha Rani's struggle to survive the ruthless world of Hindi films.

*SISTERS* is an engrossing tale of two sisters - beautiful, wealthy, and at war with each other. *STRANGE OBSESSION* is a novel about sexual obsession and its calamitous consequences, set in Bombay's glitzy world of fashion.

*SULTRY DAYS* takes the reader into the unreal world of pseudo poetry, art for hire and compromised journalism in the course of a passionate romance between Nisha and the streetwise God.

*SNAPSHOTS* tells of the explosive reunion of six women, friends at school, now forced to confront the dark secrets they thought they had buried deep in the past.

**Chapter 6: Conclusion**
Shobhaa De is a living legend. She is more popularly known for her sensuous writings because she has written more openly and boldly over the issues which are considered taboos and are spoken only behind closed doors. Our orthodox society loves to read such material but criticizes the same in the open. That is the reason why her books and articles are bestsellers and yet meet criticism.

The study begins from giving the brief introduction of what the work is all about. Why was this subject chosen and how was this area not covered so far. The study will be spread over various authors, especially women authors of India and abroad. By large it will include all the data of the various authors all over and their views on the bold feminist Indian writers at home and beyond. The study will cover all the details of the objections, rejections meted out to the various feminist writers. The study will further narrow down to Shobhaa De and her bold writings and all the appreciation she received for her ever changing personality. It will cover all the aspects of her versatile writing and dynamic role, her perfection in adopting herself to various role models, becoming one with the character in her books, giving a feel of the real life situation, etc. To quote one, her book *Spouse* introduces us to various real life situations where husband and wife are bound to each other due to by some force which we fail to realize and appreciate in our day today life. She has brought out this fact so smoothly that while we read we find ourselves being a part of the characterization. The study will explore the multi faced, diversified role that the author makes herself comfortable in, while penning her thoughts on various issues.

Any research project, however vast its scope, is bound to have certain delimitation arising from deficiencies inherent in the tools employed and the resources in terms of time, money, energy and the area at the disposal of the researcher. Below are the limitations of the present study:

a) The area of investigation is limited to one and only one author.

b) The research is based on the reviews and criticisms of the readers and so the results can vary.

c) The reviews and criticisms of other established authors may not be in conformity with each other and so there are chances of contradictory opinions and reviews.
d) Personal meeting with the author might be arranged but the author might have limited time at her disposal. This might not give a concrete boost to the research work.

e) The views and opinions expressed in the research work might not agree with the opinions of one and all.

f) The versatility of the author might be viewed as inconsistency in her personality and might not be approved by other authors and readers.

g) Since the author is contemporary there are possibilities of more additions of her work which might go against the already existing work and the author might add on her already set dynamism.

Her stories certainly impact our mind. And you can expect Shobhaa De to be gossipy, tongue-in-cheek, salacious and at times, titillating.