Chapter -2

REVIEW OF RELATED STUDIES AND LITERATURE
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2.1 Introduction

To understand the concept of women’s emancipation and importance of education in development of women, socio-economic situation of women in society of India are the study points considered while doing the review of literature.

2.2 Review of the study

Vaidyanathan, Anita in the “Identity development in girls and women as reflected through the vernacular writings of tamil women writers” discusses the nature and process of identity development among girls and women have been looked at in terms of the following: Development of Self; Development of Education; Gender Conflicts, Personal Struggles and Ways of Coping; Experiences of Embodiment and Sexuality; and Caste and Communal Contours. These were considered the four key construal of identity that found articulation in the Tamil texts of women writers like Ambai, Bama etc.

Sarkar, Anamika in the “Selected novels of Sita Devi and Santa Devi: Quest for feminine space”(2012) discusses the interrelation between literature and gender; and it discusses the stories of Santa Devi which often show a delightful humour with lifelike pictures of manners and persons while Sita Devi’s stories a touch of playful malice is observed. It discusses Santa Devi’s story “Parabritika” which depicts the women’s social condition. It also portrays the educational emancipation of women.“Pujartatwa”(Bengali) depicts the evils of child marriage during that era and written beautifully by Sita Devi.

Sahi, Harpreet Kaur (2011) “Negotiating with the past and contemporary life of Indian woman: a study of the works of Shashi Deshpande and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni”
attempts to describe the similarities and contrasts between two writers from India living in
two hemispheres, in order to highlight how the pulls and pressures of the past lives of women
continue to influence their present. There is constant interplay of nostalgia and reality in
Deshpande’s and Divakaruni’s novels. At a deeper level they show a conflict between
tradition, modernity as well as that of women education during that century.

changes in Bengali society and culture over the last two decades which have direct bearings
on women's lives: divorce and the breakup of the joint family, education, increasing
Westernization via television and women's magazines, and the erosion of traditional religious
practices.

Pradesh since independence” in her study attempts to highlight In the light of findings of the
present study, the researcher points out the educational implications of the study. The present
state of Muslim women in India clearly indicated that they need education first. Education
helps the women to maintain high moral character and warm them against the ensuring
oddities. This study highlights also the contribution of Muslim society in the context of
education as well.

Akhatāra, Shaheen and Bhowmik, Moushumi’s “Women in Concert: An Anthology
of Bengali Muslim Women’s Writings (1904 - 1938)” [2008] highlights the Bengali Muslim
writers, all of whom happen to be women, writing in the early decades of the 20th century,
negotiating with modernity and nationalism, speaking of radical feminist concerns often from
behind the veil, making a call for freedom and equal opportunities having pulled themselves
out of the mire of disadvantage, exhorting their sisters to wake up from long centuries of
sleep. The writers included here do all this and more with education as the primary tool of
their awakening. The book reveals how linguistic, cultural and religious differences can mutate to produce hybrid writings that meet the needs of a cross-fertilized society.

Bandyopadhyay, Sunita in her research tilted “March towards Modernity : Bengali Women” (2006) has depicted the modern women who is very much capable of doing the all the chores of home and concentrate upon education and writing at the same time. Mention in this context should be made of the five sisters of Jagdish Chandra Bose – Swarnaprova, Subarnaprova, Labanyaprova, Hemaprova and Charuprova. All were well educated. Hemaprova was a lecturer at Bethune College. Mention was also made of the two daughters of Durgamohan Das, Sarala who was a educationist and the founder of Gokhale Memorial School.

De, Madhavi in her book “Santa Devi and Sita Devi”(Bengali, 2003) discusses the life, literature and modernist thoughts of Santa Devi as well as Sita Devi. She has discussed in her book the modernist outlook of both the sisters and how they have actively participated in literature, education, politics as well as social work for women. They also had strong personality and a strong will. De also discusses how broad their outlook was and how they have stood up for the cause of women emancipation.

Devi, Mahasweta in her book “The Why-why girl” and illustrated by Kini, Kanyika (English,2003) tells the story of the little girl “Moyna” a tribal girl who is full of questions. She is always brimming with so many “why-why’s” that she earns the sobriquet the Why-why girl. Her quest for knowledge leads her to books and wherein she finds the answers she seeks.

Gooptu, Suparna in her book “Itihaashe Nari-Siksha” (2001) has highlighted the spread of education among women in the 19th century only to gather momentum in the second half of the century. She has highlighted the cause of women education through the
active movements of great men during that time – Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Gourmohan Tarkalankar, Joykrishan Mukhopadhyay and the Christian missionaries.

Tharu, S. & Lalita, K. in their book “Women writing in India: The twentieth century” (1993) traces women writings on various socio-cultural-educational development written by women writers from ancient to the modern era. She has highlighted upon the writings of Mahasweta Devi and Sulekha Sanyal. They have highlighted the empowerment of women through education and their contribution to the later era in their book.

2.3 A Discussion on the Findings of Reviewed Studies

The finding of the above study points:

- the trials and tribulations of the Indian women in the male dominated society and the struggle to maintain the modern values and to carve out an identity of their own

- in the new and ostensibly stifling environment of her protagonists makes them a feminist.

- Their protagonists seek to synthesize traditions with the modern values which are the needs of the hour.

- To an extent they reconcile themselves to the rigidity of traditions but with reservations and carve out their own identity as ‘new women’ living within the ambit of tradition.

- It is also found that women of the above studies have taken up education as their weapon and they inflict it through their writings in different occasions in a befitting manner.
- It is also observed from the above that women who are only bothered about their own survival at any cost do not understand the about being equal with their men and they have other priorities in life.

- Only the educated middle-class women are more concerned about the development and asserting their identities and aspiring for an equal partnership with males.

2.3.1 Analysis of the present study:

- The written works of Sita Devi as well as Shanta Devi who holds a balanced view of Indian feminist ideals and expects for a better co-operation from men and an equal partnership in society.

- The short stories written by them where women were the protagonists and who are emancipated as well.

- The study highlights the empowerment of women through education and the Indian with special reference to Bengali society as a whole and where men were also observed to be a pillar of their support in certain instances.
References:


