Preface

The modern fast revolutionary development in the means of communication and modes of information technology in the present era has brought the whole world very close both in time and distance. The happening and ideas are no more the isolated property of any particular community or country. Old concepts, dogmas and theories are in the process of acute critical examination and sharp penetrating analysis, as the property of one harmonious single humanity. Comparisons and contrast and discussions of merits and demerits, of any notion, or approach are very easy and fast today.

Feminism, a phenomenon of social upheaval of women in general in all the sphere of human relations, a revolution of ideas in foreign lands entered the shore of mighty India also.

Shobha De is one of the strongest exponent and outspoken advocate of it. I found her as my favourite author for study due to both her subject matter of genuine cause and cutting style of writing. Therefore, I decided to focus my attention on the theme of identity problem and feministic approach in her novels.

During the process, at the outset I have traced the history, background and growth of the movement called feminism. This has given a new meaning to the thinking and lives of women across the world. In the subsequent chapters I have taken into account those aspect in a woman’s life which have been refined
with the rise and realization of feminism in India. De has very minutely and accurately brought into focus the themes of the self association identity crisis, the revolt of women against patriarchy, the changing values in the concepts of new woman and the free expression of sexuality by women. Shobha De is a feminist in her own way. The woman is at the centre of her works. She herself is an emancipated woman. She has made the woman’s issues important by bringing into sharp focus their humiliation and suffering. Through her women characters, De has voiced the suppressed hopes, ambitions and expectations of Indian women.

The present research is an attempt to express and analyze certain details regarding De’s concept of the new woman in her novels.

The present thesis has been divided into seven chapters, chapter-I, “Introduction: Making of the Novelist” introduces the subject; very briefly outlining the biography of the novelist Shobha De and identifying the major factors that have influenced her development as a novelist.

Chapter-II, “The Concept of New woman and Feminism in Indian Fiction in English” deals with the attitude and behaviour of the new Indian women who blindly follow the western culture and claimed their equality with men and later deals its historical background and result.
Chapter-III, “Feminist Concerns in Shobha De’s Novels” deals feminist concerns related to the new Indian culture of women by the behaviour of the female characters.

Chapter-IV, “A Feminist Study of Socialite Evenings, Snapshots and Sultry Days” deals the feminist concerns in reference of contemporary social order.

Chapter-V, “A Search for Identity in the Novels Second Thoughts, Sisters and Starry Nights”. This chapter throws light on the major problem of identity crisis and shows how her protagonists are eager to search their identity and to achieve fulfillment throughout the crisis of their lives.

Chapter-VI, “Lesbian Relationship in Strange Obsession” deals with the lesbian relationship between Amrita Agrawal and Meenakshi Iyengar. Through their relationship De has shown that men are responsible the downfall of woman so women no longer need them for their physical fulfillment. Amrita and Minx both have different tastes in life. Amrita prefers men's association and co-operation to lead a satisfactory life while Minx is fascinated towards women like Amrita. The lesbianism on the part of Minx should not be considered as an acquired obsession only but it also expresses her feminist attitude.

Chapter-VII “Conclusion: De’s Concept of New Woman” deals with the findings of this thesis.

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