

Shashi Deshpande: The writer as an activist

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Abstract

This paper aims to explore the idea of a writer as an activist. Life and literature are the primary theme of a writer as a social activist. Writer to expressing their dilemma of inner thoughts upon society makes the books as a mirror of writer's perspective on life. In that way Shashi Deshpande, in that way Shashi Deshpande, in Shashi Deshpande, in that way Shahe Deshpande has influenced books through her idea of society as a writer's mind. Hence the objective of this research to examine how Shahe Deshpande make political statement and societal theme as a subject attention in her writings.

Keywords: Activist, Identity, Society, Oppression, Culture

“To overcome your fear of death, you have to move from 'the world ends with me' to 'the world goes on without me'. It is a great leap, the biggest step a human can take.” “Surely there comes a moment in every human's life when he or she says, like the Sibyl - I wish to die.”

- (Shashi Deshpande)

In Literature a writer as an activist is someone who uses their writing as a tool for social and political change. They use their platform and the power of their words to raise awareness and advocate for issues they are passionate about. Their writing often highlights the struggles and experiences of marginalized communities and addresses issues such as inequality, injustice, and oppression. Many writers throughout history have used their writing as a form of activism, including authors such as James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, and Toni Morrison in the United States, and Arundhati Roy, Mahasweta Devi and Shashi Deshpande in India. These

writers have used their literature to draw attention to issues such as racism, sexism, and poverty, and to call for social and political change.

Shashi Deshpande is a renowned Indian novelist and short story writer who has made a significant contribution to Indian literature and culture. Born in 1938 in Dharwad, India, she has written over 20 books, including novels, short story collections and non-fiction, which have been translated into several languages and widely read and critically acclaimed. Her writing deals with themes such as identity, gender, and relationships, and is considered to be a feminist voice in Indian literature. Deshpande's literary career began with the publication of her first book, "The Dark Holds No Terrors", a collection of short stories, in 1980. Since then, she has published several novels and short story collections, including "That Long Silence", "Roots and Shadows", "A Matter of Time", and "The Binding Vine". Her works have been widely read and critically acclaimed, and have won several awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award for "That Long Silence" in 1990. One of the most striking features of Deshpande's writing is her ability to create powerful and relatable characters, particularly women. Her works are often centred around the lives and struggles of women, and explore the complexities of their relationships, identities, and experiences. Through her writing, Deshpande gives voice to the marginalized and oppressed, and challenges the traditional patriarchal structures that have long oppressed women in India.

In addition to her literary pursuits, Deshpande has been actively involved in various social and cultural issues. She has been a vocal advocate for the rights of women and has been involved in several organizations working towards the empowerment of women. She has also been actively involved in the promotion of Indian literature and culture, and has been a member of several literary and cultural organizations. For example, Deshpande has been a member of the Indian National Book Trust and the Central Sahitya Akademie, and has served as the President of the Karnataka Sahitya Akademi. She has also been a member of the Karnataka Women's Commission, which works towards the empowerment of women in the state of Karnataka. Through her involvement in these organizations, Deshpande has been able to raise awareness about important issues and contribute to the betterment of society.

"It's not just that life is cruel, but that in the very process of our birth we submit to life's cruelty"

- (Shashi Deshpande)

Deshpande's activism is reflected in her writing as well. Her works are not just a reflection of her personal experiences, but also a commentary on the social and cultural issues that she is passionate about. Her writing is a powerful tool for raising awareness and sparking discussions on important issues. For example, her novel "That Long Silence" explores the theme of domestic violence, and the novel "Roots and Shadows" deals with the theme of identity and belonging. Through her writing, Deshpande challenges the status quo and encourages readers to think critically about the issues she addresses. As a women writer Shashi Deshpande has caught between the stigmas of her individual aspirations and social issues. Through her writings she has encountered to overcome with those societal problems of the individuality of a person. Her writings have brushed the aside society of how it constructed narrow the path to freely move. the portrayal of the protagonists is more vividly about problem with the questioning mind. Though her writings from a feminine perspective, her concern is for societal improvement. The equality is the stick she has lining through her aspects. Shashi Deshpande's trace out the foundation of human society. Through her narratives shows common contradiction to produce positive Indian society.

"We're gay and whimsical about our own people, our own country. We are rational, unprejudiced, broadminded. We discuss intelligently, even solemnly, the problems of unemployment, poverty, corruption, family planning. We scorn the corrupt, we despise the ignorant, we hate the wicked.... And our hearts bleed, Naren, for Vietnam, for the blacks, for the Harijans..... But frankly, we care a damn. Not one goddam about anything but our own precious selves, our own precious walled-in lives"

- (Shashi Deshpande)

Deshpande's writing also deals with the theme of feminism and the empowerment of women. Her works often depict the struggles of women in a patriarchal society and their attempts to break free from the constraints imposed upon them. Through her writing,

Deshpande challenges the patriarchal structures that have long oppressed women in India and encourages readers to question the status quo. Her novel "The Binding Vine" deals with the theme of women's empowerment and the novel "A Matter of Time" explores the theme of gender roles and expectations. In addition to her literary and social activism, Deshpande is also a public speaker and has given lectures on various topics including literature, women's rights, and social issues. Through her speeches and public appearances, she has been able to raise awareness about important issues and inspire others to take action. After freedom women's group started writing has become a new age of political activity started in nation. Women among in the society has gathered profound issues threatened women by society.

“is a very strange thing...It’s meant for social living, to ensure that some rules are observed, so that men and women don’t cross the lines drawn for them. At the same time, marriage is an intensely private affair; no outsider will know the state of someone else’s marriage. It’s a closed room, a locked room...”

- (Shashi Deshpande)

Shashi Deshpande as an activist, she has been a vocal advocate for women's rights and gender equality. Through her writing and activism, Shashi Deshpande has played an important role in shaping the discourse on women's issues in India and has inspired many other feminist voices in the country. Her works have been translated in many languages and have received critical acclaim both in India and internationally.

In conclusion, Shashi Deshpande is a writer and activist who has made a significant contribution to Indian literature and culture. Her writing is not only a reflection of her personal experiences, but also a tool for raising awareness and sparking discussions on important issues. She is an inspiration to many, not just as a writer but also as an activist. Through her writing, she gives voice to the marginalized and oppressed, and challenges the traditional patriarchal structures that have long oppressed women in India. Her involvement in various social and cultural organizations and her public speaking engagements have also helped to raise awareness about important issues and inspire others to take action. Deshpande's writing and activism will continue to inspire future generations and her literary works will always be remembered as a powerful tool for change.

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