



Intricacies of Man-Woman Relationship

(Special Reference to Select Novels of Shashi Deshpande
and Bharati Mukherjee)

Dr. Milind Yuvraj Mane

more complex relationships between the two genders in the novel. Dr. Bharati Mukherjee's (1950) 'The Third Gender' is a seminal work in this field, exploring the complexities of gender identity and the role of the 'third gender' in society.

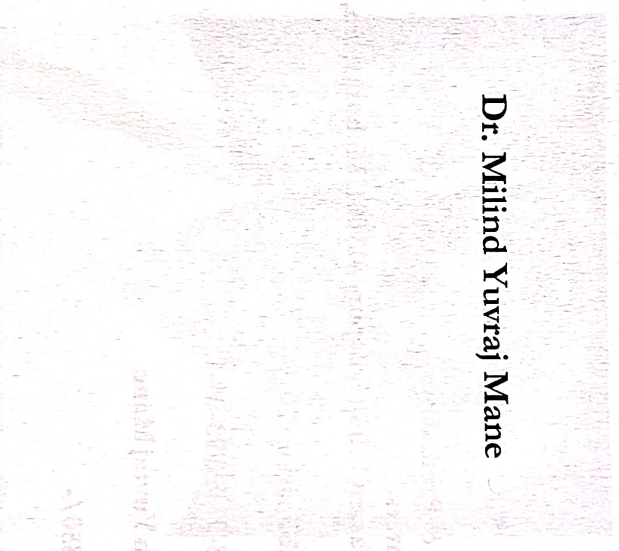
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I dedicate this book to my mother, who has been a source of inspiration and support throughout my life. She has always encouraged me to pursue my dreams and to be true to myself.

Dr. Milind Yuvraj Mane



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Chapter - I

Introduction

The present project is a comparative study of the treatment of man-woman relationship in the novels of Shashi Deshpande and Bharati Mukherjee. The modern Indian women writers in English have discovered new ways to counter the various forms of oppression meted out to women in a male-dominated society. They seem to have been guided by the age old experience of repression of Indian women. Kamala Markandaya, Ruth Praver Jhabvala, Attia Hossein, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, Bharati Mukherjee, Shashi Deshpande, Nargis Dalal, Rama Mehta, Shanta Rama Rau, Venu Chitla, Veena Paintal, Mrilani Sarabhai, Jai Nimbkar and Shouri Daniel are emotionally and intellectually equipped to offer an authentic fictional treatment of the problems of man-woman relationship in terms of marital dissonance, socio-cultural issues, socio-political and socio-economical problems.

The portrayal of man-woman relationship is not new. It is as old as the novel itself. Samuel Richardson and Henry Fielding on the one hand and D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner on the other, have been primarily concerned with this fundamental relationship. As D.H. Lawrence points out: "The great relationship for humanity will always be the relation between man and