



In Anita Nair's New Women Batter than Man

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ABSTRACT: Feminism is a criticism of the prevailing social conditions, which have excluded women from the dominant male culture, social, political and intellectual pursuits. Modernity is clearly evident in the emergence of the new woman writing. The differences are notable in the pioneering work of modernist women writers. This paper effort is going to make a study of the changing roles of women in Indian society by taking into consideration Anita Nair's *The Better Man*, the novelist of the Post independent era who have very skillfully and effectively presented the predicaments which are imposed upon them and while fighting against these predicaments, how they come out of their traditional roles as a mother, daughter, sister and above all as a wife or a home maker and acquire many unimagined and novel roles like teacher, social worker, social activist, businesswoman or corporate personality and many more. Most often female characters are fixed by gender stereotypes so that their attempts to transcend this position are often questioned. With the swing from feudal patriarchy to entrepreneur bourgeois patriarchy, the life of societal relations has tainted and vigorous individuality, self-centeredness and self-government have progressed as the crucial individual factors in the social relations. In general, female characters are silenced in the face of their oppression under a patriarchal system. It is an undeniable fact that women have not only been denied existence as complete human beings, physically and mentally set to perform on a egalitarianism with men, but also destitute of the opportunity to give expression to their feelings, their fears and their distress.

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Indian English literature has got its own lion's share in world literature. The works of these Indian women writers have left their indelible impression on the pages of literary history, which cannot be erased with ease. Indian women writers also established their own identity by exploring female subjectivity in their literary offspring and striving to bring an identity for women, by highlighting various untouched and unnoticed facets of life.

Being women novelists, almost all of them put every effort to draw attention to the situations and predicaments of women, by presenting them as prominent figures in their novels. Of all the novelists, who have shown considerable talent in projecting

feminine sensibility, Anita Nair deserve particular attention because she has eked out her own identity in the oeuvre of Indian novelists. This paper tries to highlight the sexual predicament in Anita Nair's novels. She focuses primarily on the psychological exploration of inner mind of Indian women in Indian novels in English. The writer being woman permeate deep into the inner mind of the depressed women by virtue of their feminine sensibility and psychological insight and bring to light their issues, which are the outcome of Indian women's psychological and emotional inequalities in a male dominated society. Anita Nair's novels explore the search of the woman to fulfill herself basically as a human being, independent of her various traditional roles as daughter, wife, mother and so on. Anita Nair strongly agrees with *Simone de Beavoir's* "that fact that we are human is much more important than our being and women". Women have been quite suppressed, quite oppressed. Gradually the transfer is expressed by the quest for identity. This quest for identity leads to self discovery which pervades in the selected novel of Anita Nair. This search for self is the predominant theme with many writers especially in the post modern writings.