

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni as a Feminist

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Abstract:

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an Indo-American writer. She was born in Calcutta in the year 1956. Her original name is Chitraklekha .She spent the first nineteen years of her life in India. Then she decided to leave India and settled down in the United States of America. She continued her higher studies in the U.S. She left her motherland to an alien land for her education and career. She got her master degree from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. She received her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. Both her master`s degree were in English. For several years she has been interested in the issues of women. She has formulated an association for women who suffered a lot in a new world for their rights.The present article highlights the position of women in the society with special reference to *The Palace of Illusion, Sister of my heart* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. It is divided into five chapters including an introduction and a conclusion. Chapter one deals with the origin of the term male chauvinism, its definitions, the salient features of male chauvinism and its new dimension in the society. In addition it deals with the development of diasporic literature. Chapter Two looks at the biographical sketches of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and the salient features of her novels.Chapter Three deals with the position of Kunti and Gandhari. Being a women how they suffered in the patriarchal society and analyses it through the lens of the novel *The Palace of Illusion*. The unbalanced position of Drupadi in the hands of the male dominated society, and it analysis her trauma through the lens of the novel *The Palace of Illusion*. Chapter Four deals with the unbalanced position of Drupadi in the hands of the male dominated society, and it analyses her trauma through the lens of the novel *The Palace of Illusion*.

INTRODUCTION

The term male Chauvinism means a belief in the innate superiority of men over women. This term can also be interpreted as feminism. The theory feminism was first established in the year 1960. The main motto of feminism is getting social and political rights in the male dominated society. They want to create their own world with full of wisdom and joy. The first pioneer of the feminist criticism was formulated by the great critic Virginia Woolf who is a member of Blooms berry critical movement. She contributed much for the growth of feminism as well as for the growth of literature. She is the one of the

women who fought against the patriarchal society. In her famous essay titled *A Room of One`s Own* published in the year 1929, she delivers a speech on the sufferings of women within the house as well as the society. She is an important predecessor in the feminist movement. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an Indo-American writer. She was born in Calcutta in the year 1956. Her original name is Chitraklekha .She spent the first nineteen years of her life in India. Then she decided to leave India and settled down in the United States of America. She continued her higher studies in the U.S. She left her motherland to an alien land for her education and career. She got her master

degree from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. She received her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. Both her master`s degree were in English. For several years she has been interested in the issues of women. She has formulated an association for women who suffered a lot in a new world for their rights.

KUNTHI AND GANDHARI

Woman is considered as the strong pillar of the family. She is the divine spirit who stands the root of the family. She is the only soul who sacrifices all her wishes for the sake of her family. The most important thing in her life is her family. Apart from her family there is nothing in her life. In the same way Drona`s wife leads her life for the sake of her family. Though she suffers a lot because of poverty she never blames her husband even once. *The Palace of Illusion* novel deals with the story of today`s war – torn world. This novel takes the readers back to the time of ancient Indian epic *The Mahabharata*. This novel depicts the times of half-history, half-myth and magical issues, through the narrator Panchaali, the wife of five powerful Pandava brothers. This novel gives a rare feminist interpretation of an epic story. This text talks about the difference between genders. It analyses the complex construction of feminism already existing in the original text. Divakaruni retells the epic form. This story is narrated in first person by one of its heroines. The major theme prevails in “*The Palace of Illusion*” based on the theme of war between

two families. It explains the crucial relationship between womanhood and the vengeance of women against the men.

CONCLUSION :

Literature is considered as a powerful medium or a instrument of social change. Lots of social changes happen in the society with the help of literature. It always has been a threat to establish the rules and social order to the world. Many writers have been exiled, imprisoned and banned for expressing their views. Women have faced gender discrimination and they are rejected from the society because of male chauvinism. Inequality prevails among the sexes and culture discourages women from writing and expressing themselves. Literature was considered a purely male activity. The theory of male chauvinism is out dated but it has gone deep into psyche of men.

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