

**GENDER PERSPECTIVE AND MARITAL DISHARMONY IN
ANITA DESAI'S *CRY, THE PEACOCK***

C. Priyadharshini,
M.A., B.ED., M.phil
Kailash Women's College
Email: priya09durai@gmail.com

Abstract

The gender perspective appearance at the impact of gender on people's opportunities, social roles and interactions. Successful implementation of the policy, programme and project goals of international and national organizations is directly full of the impact of gender and, in turn, influences the method of social development. Gender is associate degree integral element of each side of the economic, social, daily and private lives of individuals and societies, and of the different roles ascribed by society to men and women. This paper is going to dealt with Gautama and Maya and their perception on life.

Key Words: gender, organizations, economic, social, .etc

“Cry, the Peacock” by Anita Desai is a wonderful Novel regarding the matrimonial inharmoniousness. The married life of Maya and Gautama is mutually opposed. Maya is full of life and wants to enjoy life to the utmost. To her, sexual satisfaction could be a necessity and therefore the total denial of it should offer psychological disorder. She is interested in all the good things of life – nature, birds and animals, poetry and dance. She loses herself in the enjoyment of beautiful sights and sounds. The cries of birds evoke a sympathetic chord in her. She is presented in the novel as a woman who longs for pleasures of life.

Gautama is a friend of Maya's father, prosperous middle-aged lawyer, very much older than Maya and married her. He always accused his wife. While Maya is craving for love and affectionateness, her husband Gautama is incapable of understanding her genuine feelings and emotions. The Albino astrologer had once told her that either she or her husband would die within four years of her marriage. The anxiety caused by this prophecy had diminished her happiness.

After marriage Maya has to leave her father. Not only he pampered her but also fed her infant brain with fairy tales because the doctor had advised him not to make her anxious or sad. That

was probably the time when Maya first began to reveal signs of her neurosis, and her father's awareness of it made him even more attached to her. She wants demonstrative love and does she has to loud displays of love. After marriage she expects her husband to play as father with her. Maya does not grow up mentally which results in suffering. Gautama expects Maya to behave like a mature person. But this will increase Maya's sense of insecurity any, causing mental imbalance and acute psychic tension.

Maya's father wished to keep this a secret not only from Gautama but from others as well, because such a revelation might have reduced his daughter's chances of marriage for who would willingly marry a psychic case. She therefore, looks upon him as an antagonist and her psychic problem becomes an existential one. The trouble with Maya is that she fails to appreciate that every one could be a completely different individual – United Nations agency essentially thinks, act and behaves in a different manner from others.

She is longing for the companionship like that of Radha and Krishna. It is a communication that she seeks – actuality wedding within which body, mind and soul unite – the sort which the peacock seeks when it shrieks out its within in its shrill intense coupling calls." The cries of peacocks in the novel represent her cries of love, which simultaneously invite their death. Like her, they are creatures of exotic wild and will not rest till they have danced the dance of death. She describes how they danced and produced a remarkable impact on her mind:

"In the shadows I saw peacocks dancing, the thousand eyes upon their shimmering feathers gazing steadfastly, unwinkingly upon the final truth – Death. I heard their thirst and they gazed at the rain clouds, their passion as they hunted for their mates. With them, I trembled and panted and paced the burning rocks. Agony, agony, the moral agony of their cry lover and for death."

(Cry, the Peacock, 96)

The novel portrays the inner emotional world of Maya United Nations agency is that the victim of town life. She feels estranged from her husband's world and feels rejected and utterly lonely in the house. Thinking of her sad wedding, Maya reflects with deep concern:

"It was discouraging to reflect on how much in our marriage was based mostly upon nobility forced upon US from outside, and therefore neither true nor lasting. It was broken repeatedly, and repeatedly the pieces were picked up and place along once more, as of a sacred icon with which, out of the pettiest superstition, we could not bear to part." (Cry, the Peacock, 40)

She shows a reverence for death of her dog Toto, though it is only her dog that died. To him the death of Toto is a natural happening, but to her, it is some greater calamity Maya's loneliness is, due to her too much of attachment. It is not for the lack of love for her husband that she suffers, but for too much of love for him. Maya feels helpless and he or she desires somebody to supply her protection and consolation.

Though Gautama and Maya are married, they do not really communicate with each other. What is real to her is shadow to him, what are facts and hard realities to him have no interest for her. The struggle, one can readily see is not without purpose and the aim is to achieve the sort of harmony. The major concerns of the writer are loveliness, depression and solitude.

The Story of Maya's life looks to be one amongst a three-fold pattern of events that may be summed up as: deprivation, alienation and elimination respectively. In the initial place, Maya has been deprived of the love of mother, brother, and later her father. Secondly, she is alienated from her husband and in the end she brings about his elimination from life and her own self from her family and society. Maya is an instinctive woman of passions and emotions.

Gautama, on the other hand, is a philosophical intellectual. She expects some emotional and physical satisfaction in married life but both of them are denied her, one by Gautama's cold intellectuality and the other by his age.

Through Maya, the novelist has tried to stress the great yearning of the woman to be understood by her male partner. Thus, "Cry, the Peacock" is a pioneering effort towards delineating the psychological problems of an alienated person. Anita Desai appearance into the explanations for marital status discord and illustrates however such discord affects the family. The matrimonial bonds that bind the two were very fragile and tenuous. Lack of communion was the chief cause of intricacies in the life of Maya and Gautama. Maya suffered because of alienation and therefore the wide gap between Maya's father and Gautama Siddhartha.

No different author is such a lot involved with the lifetime of young men and girls in Republic of India cities as Anita Desai.

References:

- Anita Desai's Cry, The Peacock