

Govt. Raza Postgraduate College

**" 70 Years Of India's Independence Gains Accumulated
And Losses Incurred Path Ahead
: An Overview "**

**Editors : Dr. Saeeda Begum Rizvi
Dr. Baby Tabassum**

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70 Years of India's Independence: Portrayal of Women in Indian English Fiction

A woman's place in a man's world has always been assigned to her by man, and the roles by which she should live and guide her conduct in her various roles as daughter, wife and mother, determined for her by social norms, were based on male superiority. A woman in man's world often did not arrive at the level of intellectual maturity required to question these assigned roles and their value system. In rare cases where she acquired such maturity she could hardly make an impact on prevailing norms either because her questions never led to a viable alternate system or because hers was too lone a voice easier to be dismissed as deviant than listened to with any serious attention.

Men generally cherish the qualities of obedience, and self-sacrifice in a woman and these qualities are safely nurtured in the sense of passivity, compliancy and irrationality which women accept as part of their powerlessness. So too are qualities like piety, lack of materiality and other worldliness generally attributed to women. By the same logic, women are to avoid aggressiveness, self-assertion and competition since these are the most inconvenient attitudes to have under a state of subordination. There is no room for allowing any importance to women's possible intellectual abilities. Therefore, this article is an attempt to explore women's infinite struggle to shake the patriarchal foundation to get identity of their own in select fiction of Indian English novelists.

Women have indeed often lacked the sort of access to power and material resources that men have had and they have been victims of male power and brutality. Women's world may often have been small scale, concerned largely with the care of children and the physical and emotional maintenance of family. The wide acceptance of the social myth that women's place was in the home hindered the arrival of any basic changes in women's place in man's world. Since marriage was the only vocation permitted to women there was no question of their trying to evade these roles and work out the possibility of a different status in the world.