

Marital Discord in Shobhaa De's Novels

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Shobhaa de is one of the most eminent, grandiloquent, amusing widely known and esteemed novelist in Indian English literature. She is the author of eighteen books both fiction and non-fiction. Indian English literature is no longer a pursuer of its British characteristics, but it has created its new outlook of its own. Indian Writers have designed a position of their own in English with their exhilarating works of literary calibres. Novelist has gained firm establishment and are obdurate by gaining notable achievements. Shobhaa De's intellect, her penetrating insight, her bias to call a spade a spade have all contributed to her impressed style of writing over the periods of years .De has activated a genuine storm with a fervent desire to change society. She exposes the reality of the aristocratic society in urban India.

De's parameters of writing are that of west, and her thoughts are of east in which a woman liberates her happiness and wants to exempt from female dominance. De wields pen with poignant words by writing affectionate, painful at other times unpropitious words to exhibit the distressing sores of the aristocratic community. Her fictions are *Socialite Evenings (1989)*, *Starry Nights (1991)*, *Sisters (1992)*, *Strange Obsession (1992)*, *Sultry Nights (1994)*, *Snapshots (1995)* and *Second thoughts (1996)*.

The present paper considers marital discord in Shobhaa De's novels in which the aggressively self assured women determines marriage a new thing. Marriage to them is a seasonable contract to conduct an affordable and indiscriminate life which can be concluded at any time trusting on the discontentment and desires of the

partners. It was ordinarily afflictive and distractive for the associates to assemble each other. Mostly many marriages suffered in De's novels but some of them were dissolved.

Marriage is the state of being a married couple voluntarily joined for life or until divorce. It is an intimate or close union in which the marital bond is flourished and sexual relations are recognized. Nowadays in metropolitan cities its solemnity and applicability has lost in the post 1980 era. The institution of marriage is of incomparable importance in the life of a young woman in India. Polyandry is generally adopted and the marital relationship is fundamentally subdued in Shobhaa De's novels. De tears to pieces all notion of honourableness linked with marriage. She indicts the hollowness and hypocrisy in Indian marriages.

De's novels manifest the attainment of a new Indian woman who rejects defiantly the obligation of patriarchal masses. They are not emotional, submissive and powerless ladies of manners but they are bold, rich and articulate their titillating sexual fantasies firmly and remarkably. They also become violent, radical, insolent, indiscriminate and even openly malicious. The prototypal Indian male has

been portrayed as ineffectual in the murkiest colours.

The first novel *Socialite Evenings* has a very striking theme of marital discord. In this novel the protagonist Karuna declares solemnly about her loquacious and ineffectual marital relationship she articulated:

"I think our marriage was over the day our honeymoon started. We have got nothing going. I don't love you- never have. As for you- I really don't know to this day why you choose to marry me. I don't think you even know who you married." ¹ --
[*Socialite Evenings*. p. 185]

Her husband was an ordinary Indian husband – unstimulating, uninspiring and an untutored man. Karuna gets bore with her husband who doesn't participate in her involvements and tries to down her blues by reading books and solving crossword puzzles. She was living a life of sensational frigidity. She is the hollow lady of the present modern worthless uninhabited wasteland. Due to lack of love and attention from her husband she extra-martially links with Krish. She declines marriage and constitutes her own representation. She didn't want to have a baby and undergoes abortion when she conceived and it was medically proved that she cannot conceive anymore. The critic S. P. Swain has pointed out that:

“Shobhaa De expresses the picture of woman not only as a protagonist but also has motivating factor in society, initiating and regulating their own life as well as the lives of other in the voluptuously fascinating world of Bombayites, its enticing glitter and glamour enamouring many a Karuna’s to its ensnaring and captivating gossamer.”²

Karuna divorces her husband to establish her identity and adopted journalism as her career. Her lack of knowledge and unskilled attitude results in divorce, when her husband catches her in a misdeed with Krish. She is remorselessly humiliated in marital relationship and repudiates the marriage. The major cause of Karuna’s divorce was also the springing promiscuity in sexual relations.

In the same novel Karuna’s friend Anjali’s marriage embody the essential characteristics by showing a typical example of influence from opulent classes. She was attractive, young girl and was fascinated to see places and meet people. She got married to Abbas Tyabjee, a man with crude reputation. Anjali’s almost frigid perversion had attracted him. They started to artifice each other in marriage. They never developed close familiarity and feeling of close attachment in their marital life. Abe was a philanderer and

Anjali was a pervert. Both were different poles in a same platform of marriage.

He was never bothered about his amative or amorous activities. He divorces her and Anjali goes from men to men to get suffer in the transaction and she became amused and pathetic. The marital bond of Anjali’s marital life fractures down. Anjali became extremely perilous and announces her next affair. After divorce she ponders over remarriage as the new alternative to her solution to live a rich life with a new husband and get out of her middle-class background. The superior principle of Anjali’s second marriage with homosexual Kumar Bhandari was also discarded. Kumar Bhandari provided her all amenities, jewelleryes and nice saris. She stayed -off from sex and turned towards spiritualism and religion to acquire comfort from her routine existence.

The novel *Sisters* also represent a discord in marital relationship of Mallika Hiralal (Mikki) and Binny Malhotra. Mikki circumspetly marries Binny Malhotra. Her honeymoon with Binny Malhotra was a ridiculous failure. Binny a womanizer was already married and only to hold up an iconic mental representation in the society he marries Mikki. She felt unconstrained, uninhibited and emotionally stimulated to the point of

primordial abandon. He morally degraded her with motherhood and exerted her to undergo abortion. He failed to accomplish his wife and also fails to perform indispensable moral deeds by providing her individuality, freedom and emotional security to the affectionate wife. Binny illustrated:

“You are Binny Malhotra’s wife. And you’d better start behaving like her. In our family women are trained to obey their husbands. Thank your stars you don’t have a mother-in-law to please. You will never, I repeat, never question me....or complain. You have nothing to complain about---got that? Your life is perfect. Your life is perfect. You have everything....everything. Where I go, what I do, when and with whom, is my business. I will spend as much time with you as I choose to.”³ -- [Sisters. p.187]

Mikki’s imaginary transactions to enjoy the fruit of marital life ruined when Binny suspected her celibacy and turns her out of his home. Shobhaa De signifies that: “It is not enough to have a mind of your own, if you don’t have income to match --- with this economic freedom has come assertiveness confidence and refused to be treated as door mats.”⁴ -- [“Survival Tactics.”]

Binny divorces Mikki with seventeen charges including adultery. The marriage remained unconsummated and it was finally annulled. She modifies from a mere social butterfly to a mature woman and to a kindly mother figure is apparent when she turns her attention towards her estranged sister. She is caught up in the whirlpool of complex human situations.

The novel *Sultry Days* also portrayed the marital discord in Pramila’s marital relationship with Vilas. Pramila a Nagpur based traditional woman was a non-conformist. She is married to an Engineer from Pilani. Vilas was having a good job security and lovely children. She possessed a motorbike of her own to pursue her interests, yet she feels uninterested, suffocated and disappointed in this environment. She is talented and sets herself on the road to achieve a liberated lifestyle. She starts writing poems and ran away to Bombay for greener pastures abandoning her family and asks for a divorce. Vilas bewildered:

“He was convinced his wife had been lured away by a hypnotist or a tantric who had cast a spell over her. The children were still too young to understand that their mother had deserted them. The youngest one whimpered for a week and refused to eat.”⁵ -- [Sultry Days.p.263]

Pramila had an illicit relationship with Yashwantbhai a politician in Bombay for some time. Divorcing her husband she keeps two children with her in Bombay. She had charted the aberration phenomenon by betraying her husband and family. She achieved success but she has failed in her marital life. Thus the marital bond of Pramila and Vilas was obliterated.

In *Snapshots* Aparna is ignorant of her husband Rohit's true nature. She loves him and accommodates herself to his make believe behaviour. The information is that Rohit is constrained in an extra-marital relationship with Swati, which creates problems in his eager inclination or devotion to his wife. Owed to this reason Aparna suffers and undergo disgrace at the hands of men due to deception and machinations of the Swati type of women. Aparna seriously uttered:

"Sure we had squabbles sulk and work outs, but that was to be expected to give respective temperaments." ⁶ -- [*Snapshots*. p.25]

Rohit was a selfish and worthless person. They argued over the respective roles of them in marriage. On the other hand Aparna didn't demanded sex. She wanted laughter and touches small intimate moments, a study warm attentive companion in the form of her husband. But Rohit deceived her in all senses. He denied

her to give progeny and divorces her by walking out of her life. Hence the dissolution of marriage takes place. The partner remained in different towards the marital significance.

Swati in *Snapshots* gets married to one of her best buddy and recalls that he was the one who understood her best. She is a gorgeous London based operator, more on the lines of Pamela Bordes. She not only picks up bad habits, but also starts boozing and sex. Madhumati Adhikari mentions that:

"Marriage a patriarchal enclosure can be longer hold women down. Marriage and motherhood, symbols of parental authority and power are diffused by Shobhaa De through Rashmi, a mother, Swati and Aparna are divorcees and yet sufficiently powerful to reject the sexuality of men. Swati may marry on her own terms but for Aparna husband is an awful and dirty word."⁷

Swati had entered the wedlock many a times but each time she divorced because they were unable to arouse a feeling of femininity or motherhood in her, as she wants to be a complete woman. She being too 'Self absorbed' and closely associated in the institution of the marriage. Krishna Avtar Agarwal mentions that:

“Shobhaa De’s women characters suffered in heterosexual relationships due to lack of experience, maturity and the neglect and non-cooperative attitude of their husband.”

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Really many of the marital relationships in Shobhaa De’s novel results in unhappiness and infidelity and crumbled down or divorced due to problems in life of the partners and they get distracted and stay out of marriage by cheating each other. It is true that a shift in some of our basic values in India is taking place.

These marital relationships in the metropolitan cities were strangely affected by big cities fashionable life, industrial advancement, modern life style, capitalistic attitudes and lack of progeny so on. The female characters they wanted assertion of independence for individual space, compatibility with the partner and benevolent situational factors so they leave the marriage that doesn’t fulfil their needs.

Marital bonds in De’s novels get strife because female characters they also go outside their marriages to search emotional attention, or reassurance of their desirability from the opposite sex.

Polyamory for the characters is commonly acknowledged and they consider the marriage relationship as preparatory. Shobhaa De has given the

importance to marriage in her life but she has delineated the husband- wife relationship consciously in her novels and bared the naked seed impudently. There is no marital discord in the novel *Strange Obsession* and *Second Thoughts*.

By showing the marital discord in her novels De has introduced the reader to the inner lives and psychology of the elite women of Bombay. Due to lack of parental love and proper guidance in childhood these female characters they suffered the turmoil of marriage. Couples were of younger age, selfish and highly educated with good income so they have the higher divorce rates.

Thus De’s women like Karuna, Anjali, Mikki, Pramila, Aparna and Swati were not enamoured of the ideology of blissful marriage. Cracks in modern spousal relationship in metropolitan cities in India are widening. The partners are intimated that a dose of compromise and sharing of the vital emotions marvellously builds a strong marital relationship in their lives. Tightening the laws would stop the divorces. The media must also advice the people how to improve marital relationships, sex lives and rearing of children. Marriage though a practically universal social tie is heeded as an obstacle and hurdle in Shobhaa De’s novels.

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Marital Discord is a difficulty and issue or lack of synchronization in the marriages. It portrays a failure, malfunction and collapsed peacemaking conciliation and co-operation of the couples involved in marriage or the union of the two souls or spirits. Usually, Marital Discord originates when enmity develops among the partners. Marital Discord is a problem or lack of synchronization in the marriages. It symbolizes a breakdown in the co-operation of the married couples. Usually, the married discord originates when hostility and feud develops among the partners or individuals by internal and external demonstrations and exhibitions like partition, physical aggression, disapprobation and condemnation. Shobha De (née Rajadhyaksha, born 7 January 1948) is an Indian columnist and novelist. She is best known for her depiction of socialites and sex in her works of fiction, for which she is sometimes referred to as the "Jackie Collins of India". Shobha De was born Shobha Rajadhyaksha on 7 January 1948 in a Maharashtrian family in Satara district, Maharashtra and brought up in Girgaon, Mumbai, India. She went to Queen Mary School, and graduated from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. She married twice and has... List of Visual Novel related Discords. Need a new VN to read or are new to them? Check out our subreddit recommendation website! Images, Screenshots, and Memes related to Visual Novels are currently fine to post. Just make sure to space out your posts in moderation. If you post a screenshot, you are required to post a name of the visual novel in the title as well as tagging the topic with spoilers. Self-promotion, crowdfunding, and Kickstarters: Make sure topic title has Visual Novel name, make sure Project has narration and emphasis on reading, make sure updates are only major milestones, space out new asset/poll updates once every 2 weeks. Marital Discord - Causes & Cures. (No reviews yet) Write a Review. Write a Review. Darussalam Publication. Marital Discord - Causes & Cures. Rating Required. Select Rating 1 star (worst) 2 stars 3 stars (average) 4 stars 5 stars (best). About the book: A blissful marriage is both stable and peaceful; it abounds with mutual love, compassion, and mercy, while disagreement and discord are reduced to a minimum level. This book contains the foundations for a happy marriage; it calls attention to the most common marital problems that people complain about, and then after that diagnosis, it contains an important discussion on how couples can best deal with and solve marital disagreements.