

The background of the cover is a detailed illustration of a futuristic classroom. In the center, a large, glowing globe of Earth is suspended from the ceiling. The classroom has a curved, orange-tinted ceiling with numerous small, white, disc-shaped lights. Students, some wearing face masks, are seated at long white tables, working on laptops. Large windows on the right side of the room offer a view of a landscape with mountains, trees, and a bright sky. The overall atmosphere is one of modern, global education.

ENGLISH LITERATURE: A GLOBAL CANVAS OF VOICES, VIEWS AND VISIONS

Dr. R. Kavitha



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**UNRAVELING THE COMPLEXITY OF MULTI-WOMEN
REPRESENTATION IN NAMITA GOKHALE'S "PARO:
DREAMS OF PASSION"**

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ABSTRACT

Namita Gokhale creates a sensation as an Indian novelist with presenting the various unknown aspects of women's personality in her first novel "Paro: Dreams of Passion". Apart from staying on the issues relates to women and society, she writes a different point of view about life, liberation and suffering with full conviction. Namita occupies a distinction place with realism, liberation, fantasy, self quest, sexual autonomy and human relation. She provides an image of New Women in Paro: Dreams of Passion. She merged the themes with urbanization of India and also tries to project the difference between the East-West. The main idea of this paper is to present how the singular mind portrayed multiple women characters and presented it as symbols of multiple themes. Paro, Priya and narrator mother three takes as a symbol of Liberation, Self quest and Suffering.

**UNRAVELING THE COMPLEXITY OF MULTI-WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN
NAMITA GOKHALE'S PARO: DREAMS OF PASSION"**

Namita Gokhale, who received reputation as an Indian women writer in English with her first novel Paro: Dreams of Passion (1984). She creates a sensation with her open projection and treated as bold for its use of erotic language and depiction of extreme sex. It is also set as an antecedent to many writers on sexual satires and urban life style. It is a satirical writing on social and cultural structure of india especially urban areas like Delhi. This novel concentrates with gender and class dynamics in dealing with the issues of Indian women. Her characters

were actually union of two or three women whom she knows. She compares her role was merely that of narrator, Priya. Paro, Priya and Narrator mother created different images of women which reflect Self liberation. Self quest and Suffering.

Namita's characters always present a message through their lively presentation in the novel and always stands as a symbol of success in their premises and shares a ranking of success. Her character paro stand as a figure of lust with her extreme liberation and indivutuality. With her passion she enjoys a lot with her status and it shows the difference between different classes in the society. This characters develops a new perspection on women character.

Paro, a special female in the works of Namita Gokhale and whose life is set as a symbol on inhabitant rich of Bombay and Delhi, through the world of previllage and scotch. she is closely watched by narrator Priya, who lost heart to the sewing machine magnet B.R. and then B.R. to Paro. She has seduced many lenin, the Marxist, son of a Cabinet Minister, the fat and Sinister Shambhu Nath Mishra, the fat and Sinister Shambhu Nath Mishra. Congress Party eminence grise; Bucky Bhandpur, test Cricketer and Scion of a Princely family, Loukas Leoras, a homo sexual Greek Film Director and nearly Suresh, the lawyer on the make whom Priya has married.

Priya fantasizes about impudent Paro and aspires of the seductress charm of Paro she is symbolic of social mobility. Priya's first sight og Paro starts in the book with the description of Paro's charm at her marriage celebrations with B.R. It also reflects the social life of upper class nature.

“I saw B.R. and Paro walk into the room.....She was wearing a silver tissue sari.

And positively glittering with diamonds.....”.

Sometimes the narrator, Priya describes her fantasizes of appropriating the sexuality of the other. The below statement is clear that there is a similarities between Paro and priya, it distinct between reality and dream.

“I did not fantasize, but sometimes I become Paro.....”

Paro, the beautiful women, find expression by donning the character of the more sexually liberated women. Paro confesses herself as a beautiful women and investing a lot of time and money in maitaning physical attractiveness. As she begins to age and put on weight, Paro tries

various things like salads and yoga to maintain her figure as the body is integral to herself image. The middle aged Paro admires Mishra.

“I am Paro, and this is my party.....My party is the Congress party.....

Like a cat in heat”.

Paro belongs to the elite class and her modern society allows her to take advantages and use men for her personal benefits and try to find her true love and is very self centered and ambitious. Paro is the product of her own circumstances. Her only fault is that, she fails to rise an appropriate occasion, and give way under the impact of factors beyond her control. She attracted towards the glamorous world outside like B.R. Marcus, Bucky Bhandpur, Suresh, Lenin, Shambu Nath Mishra, Loukas Leoras. She always got attention and appreciation for her good looks and she achieved all her dreams too, at the end she left alone without saying anything before her death. Finally, Paro's death gives a shape to the story. It projects as a mystery. Paro explained her all lovers without any affection. This is a controversial point in the story. Paro's death leaves the readers in shock and even those who hated her for her frankness and carefree style living must have certainly felt sad by her unexpected death. Priya is full of remorse and sorrow on Paro's death. Many memories relate to Paro remembered for its sexual explicitness.

“Paro was dead. I could not imagine a world without her.

I sat and thought for a long time, but.....”

Priya, the protagonist, who conquers her lower middle class struggle by the end. She maintains self respect and individuality. The only character which shows major development in the novel. She depicts the story as she is also a part of characters and eye witness to the situations. Priya character can be compared with the role of author, at this situation readers never find difference to author's voice to narrator voice. The novel starts with the statement:

“I am writing about because I saw myself.....”

She starts with an infatuation for her boss, the great B.R., owner of Sita Sewing Machines. The first time she went to his home and fascinated by the affluence and the quietness. She describes as it was a place of heaven in the land and compared herself as a princess and she forgets her surroundings and starts enjoying with her boss.

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“ A strange beatification, a feeling of utter lassitude, overtook me,

I forgot that my nails were as chewed and bitten.....”

But she was surprised with her boss marriage he married Paro, a daughter of a Brigadier. She distressed with that news and decided not to go for marriage but she develops eagerness with the tales of her colleagues about Paro's beauty and B.R.'s obvious infatuation. She attended marriage celebrations and describe Paro's personality and charm. With Paro's self confidence and audacity nature priya lost her confidence and accepted Paro as a symbol of affluence. The below lines describes the feeling of priya about the nature of upper class social and cultural style:

“Their faces, appeared in every way too ordinary to have bred so exotic

a creature as the shimmering bride before them.....”

Priya shared her life an uninspiring small time layer Suresh from Delhi. He is very sociable and entertained regularly. They enjoyed together in their two-bedroom rented flat. She shifted from lower middle class to middle class enjoyments with her marriage

“My marriage was a middle-class one, much as any other.....”

Priya's extramarital affair with B.R. damages her relation with Suresh. The struggle of Priya's character clearly exhibited through out novel. This situation provides a drastic change in the attitudes of Paro and Priya. Paro enters into the personal life of Priya and also tries to change the mind of Suresh. This situations helps us to understand the real natures of the characters. When Priya returns to Delhi she received unusual welcome from Suresh with the interference of Paro in between them. He tries to warn his wife when he heard about the relation between his wife and B.R.

“ I trust you absolutely. But even then it is not good for women from

Good families to be talked about.....”

Namita Gokhale's Paro is a story of multiple women characters which reflects and shares their experiences. Paro stands as a symbol of over freedom and individuality. She was created with abandoned emotions and freedom and Priya stands as a symbol of Indian womenhood. She always quest for self identity and she struggled with the difference of mind and heart. Namita created a remarkable reputation with not only in the creation of major characters like Paro and Priya but also able to depict minor characters with the same attention.

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Namita's art of story-telling, her deep understanding of human nature and her vivid expressions, have earned long lasting place in Indian English fiction. She was treated as capable and sincere writers who treats her characters, with special attention and sympathy. It she takes a unique position with her characterization and simple among Indian English women writers.

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