

## The Feminist Approaches in *The Intrusion* of Shashi Deshpande

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### ABSTRACT

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Shashi Deshpande displays the feminist approaches in her short story entitled 'The Intrusion'. The Indian society is male dominated society. The psychology of understanding is different between men and women. Attitudes of men towards women are also different. Men are conscious about their rational attitude while women are conscious of emotional attitudes. They give importance to their attitudes and the result can be seen in their behaviours differently. This is the root of misunderstanding to each other. The author has focused the condition of married life of a couple who goes for honeymoon after getting married. Husband wants just sex nothing else in honeymoon while a wife longs for company and mutual understanding. The wife wants to understand her husband but husband is not interested in sharing his life's events. He thinks that honeymoon is for enjoying sex while his wife desires for talking and behaving in friendly manner. The purpose of honeymoon for both is different in their minds. Sex is heart of life for men while sex is part of life for women. Wife is forced to have sex with her husband though she wants to know her husband first but she cannot do anything. Most of results of arranged marriages are failure in giving importance to emotional attitudes of wives in honeymoons. The author has focused the feminist approach in this short story called 'The Intrusion'.

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### 1. Walking on Sand

The wife's walking on sand is the symbol that shows she has no existence as if she were sand and water will finish her existence of sand. She is not comfortable while walking on sand. Her marriage life is like sand where water comes and removes her life. The narrator describes:

I stopped and stared. He stopped too, and looked at me with a slight, a very slight impatience which aroused the faintest wisp of annoyance in me. Then he beckoned to me with a friendly smile and I hurried on (34)

The above mentioned sentences show that wife's attitude and husband's attitude are different. The wife is enjoying sea sand but husband cannot because it is growing dark and he does not want to spoil the time of sex while wife is not ready for sex because they are newly married couple and they have not understood each other well. The attitude of wife is different because she wants to get acquainted with her husband and her husband does not need such thing. He thinks sex is need of life while wife thinks sex happens through acquaintance with emotion. When husband sees evening he looks at her with different eyes, she feels as if she has done a mistake so she returns fast though she does not want to come back so early. The story shows the feminist concern and the point of views showing a wife's interest enjoying evening time and sand of the sea and talking to her husband to get acquainted and later enjoyment of honeymoon. Honeymoon by no means of only enjoying sex but getting acquainted with husband and wife because in most of arrange marriages couples don't have much time for getting acquainted with each other. For a wife this is the time for showing feeling, and befriending each other later turning into relation of husband and wife. Indian cultures and ceremonies especially in marriages are different than other countries. It develops slowly but for long life so it required mutual understanding and fulfilling of their wishes. The short

story narrates point of views of women's feeling and their emotions towards married life and its impacts on their life. She gets annoyed slightly but does not react much and does what he wants her to do.

### 2. Path of Dullness

The author shows the path of dullness in the life of married couple while they are on honeymoon. Communication is the first step of getting acquainted with each other. Sitting by side, talking of events happened in their lives, enjoying and spending time for each other are the key factors of happy life, otherwise life becomes dull and uninterested that results into boring life. Variety and aliveness in relationship keeps going on momentum of life. Honeymoon is the right path of getting new married couple acquainted but in the most of cases, it becomes the path of only sex nothing else. The purposes of honeymoon are having understanding, being aware, being sensitive to each other, experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experiencing fully communications and manners but it becomes the target of satisfying physical factors. The married females long for feelings and sharing of emotions and going ahead on the path of awareness in relationship that takes into pleasure but it does not happen with male acquainted. Honeymoon becomes rape even in the life of married couples. It seems to be painful silence that cannot be told anyone in her life. Mind set of married male couples don't allow them that there is need of understanding for his wife's feelings. The entire life becomes dull and uninterested because they are now ready to tolerate whole life. Husband means not of everything in life but a system must be followed in the way where feelings of wives must be respected in the all matters. Right is not always right in every manner. The narrator describes:

It had the usual dullness and impersonality of any room where people stay for a short time and go away, leaving no impress of themselves behind. Just a

jumble of stale smells. Even, I sniffed surreptitiously, a smell of bedbugs (35).

The above mentioned sentences describe the mental conditions of her feelings especially of the beds and surroundings. Even room of the hotel is not in good condition, there is smell coming out everywhere in the room. There is the smelling in the room and the second thing is that the smelling of unwillingness for physical touching. Both of them embarrass her because there is something that is unknown to her. Both of the things smell of room and smell of her husband's unfriendliness creates uneasiness in her mind. Her new experience in married life feels hesitation. Sex is not just related with physique but also with mind, heart and emotion. It makes not only two bodies one but also two souls one. Friendly approach makes easier relations. There is question for her husband that why he behaves like a practical man. He is her husband but does not try to understand her intention. A married man understands that if he gets married with a woman he has right to have sex, but he never tries to understand his wife's attitude and emotion. Her married life becomes a path of dullness where no happiness, no enjoyment and no attraction.

### 3. The Intrusion

The author has focused narrator's husband's involvement in her married life in an annoying way. She is forced without welcome. There is hitting like position of her husband in her honeymoon. There is no word; no talk between them and her husband forced her to sex with him. It is like a storm of the sea in her life. The narrator tells that there is no physical pain but it is violation of her right. Rape is not just when a woman is forced to have sex but it is also a kind rape done in the society in married woman's life. The narrator expresses:

At last, mercifully, it was over, my body having helped him by some strange instinct beyond and outside me. And the cry I gave was not for the physical pain, but for the intrusion into my privacy, the violation of my right to myself (41).

The above mentioned sentences show a woman has also right to deny her touch when she finds no mood in her privacy. Care is not that most of people think that buying clothes, and ornaments but it denotes that respecting each other's feelings is higher type of caring. Suffering of mind is not care especially hurt by male partner. A gentleman conduct is highest type of caring. If someone's intention hurts, it is not feeling but a senseless act that makes someone anxious. Negligence is the greatest carelessness. She is his wife so he thinks his special right to touch her but legally married life is also hurt when it is neglected by her husband. The narrator is neglected by her husband and the result can be seen she is hurt emotionally and her hopes are dispersed. The real happiness lies in similar feelings felt by both at the same time. If he thinks he has right

to touch his wife after married, at the same time narrator has also right to deny him but she does not deny but let him do what he wants but her husband never thinks and cares her emotion and feelings. She is shocked instead of enjoying her honeymoon while husband enjoys his honeymoon. Here is question who is happy and why and the answer is husband is happy because he gets what he wanted but wife cannot get what she wants. It does not mean that the narrator is not interested in honeymoon enjoyment but the way she is forced causes her mental and emotional injury. She finds herself as if her husband were a rapist of her body. Emotional pain is more dangerous than physical. She bears her husband in honeymoon so she longs for emotional touch. Friendly environment is required at the critical situation but her husband cannot understand her feelings. Shame, fear and guilt make her uneasy. The narrator is hurt badly by her husband's attitude. The author has described feminist attitude because being a woman she can understand women's feelings better than males. There is the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities and feminist approaches support of women's rights and interests. In this short story the narrator's rights are not given importance at all but her husband knows his rights very well and used it without taking her wife's permission. He has no bother of his wife's feelings and emotions. Even in twenty first people are not ready to give importance of rights of women's feelings and so called educated people show that they respect women in every way. There is no equality in male dominated society even in India. There is greater need of equality in politics, economy; society and in sexes. Money means economical power; social thinking and political power can create changes in society of human being. Equality is respected everywhere but the question arises where it is lying. Equality is like a dreamy concept and it is not found in human society.

### 4. Conclusion

Shashi Deshpande is a woman writer who has written many novels and short stories showing discrimination between males and females. This story also focuses the inequality between men and women. The narrator's condition shows inequality and male dominance over females. The author advocates the women's rights and its implementations in society that even a married woman cannot protest herself against her husband. If they are married that means both of them have equal rights but actually men can enjoy their rights but women have to bear them physically, mentally and emotionally. They are treated like they are not human being but just a doll. Married women are just treated like non-human being. The short story shows restless pounding of her husband on honeymoon. Her husband does not try to understand his wife's feeling thinking they are now married and can do anything without his wife's permission. Respecting each other's feeling is the root of happiness and makes life cheerful, pleasant.

### Works Cited

1. Deshpande, Shashi. *The Intrusion and Other Stories*. Gurgaon Haryana: Penguin Books. 1993.