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**REVIEW ARTICLE**

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KAMALA MARKANDAYA WITH SPECIAL  
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# Women Have Equal Right to Get Their Voices Heard As Men in the Novel of Kamala Markandaya with Special Reference to Nectar in a Sieve

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Indian novelists in English have presenting woman as the centre of concern in their novels. A woman's search for identity is a recurrent theme in their fiction. Kamala Markandaya is one of the finest and most distinguished Indian novelists in English of the post-colonial era who is internationally recognized. She has achieved a world-wide distinction by winning Asian prize for her literary achievement in 1974. She depicts women's issue and problems very deeply in her novels. She explores and interest the emotional reactions and responses of woman and their predicament with sympathetic understanding. The woman emerging out of such situation is defeated individual undergoing much pain and suffering: The feminine voice is heard in nearly all her novels. A.V. Krishna Rao observes that in her novels Kamala Markandaya has shown "the creative release of the feminine sensibility in India" Women in the novel are guilty of judging each other in same manner as they are judged are by men. Women are supposed to play; this leads to a lack of empathy and empowerment among the women. Women are allowed to be keepers of the home which in this novel is a special source of power. During the old times, a typical woman is always being referred to as weak individual who were always dependent and submissive to man. This is the reason behind women's deprivation from their right to education. The society primarily believed that women's destined to perform only two duties: a wife to their husband and a mother to their child. This paper aims to portray woman characters in the novel Nectar in a Sieve as ideal sufferers and nurturers through sharing their undertaking and showing how they responded to those.

The novelist had made Rukmani, the protagonist; in order to show the subtle intensities of the emotional fabric. **Nectar in a Sieve** hints of the fact that women did not have as much power in their society as men. The women of this novel however, exercise tremendous and unusual power in many different ways. Rukmani is educated and savy; her brave

action to seek fertility treatment allows her and Nathan to have sons, even though she's technically subservient to Nathan, she is gained power in their relationship. In a twins to prostitution to gain economic power. The choice hints at the deeper power that women's sexuality gives them over men.

Women are definitely restricted in a formal sense, but the women in novel are constantly breaking and ignoring. Her honesty gives a true grace and humility. She provides support to Nathan and cares for her children. She breaks caste restrictions when she allows her sons to work at the tannery. She becomes immune to the realities of poverty her endurance and faithful commitment to keep going on no matter what, Rukmani is like the character Sita. She overcomes all of her problems. She furthermore circumstances she had to undergo in her life. Even after all the blows she receives poverty famine, her husband infidelity, and the death of her sons, she accepts the blows and then moves on, not spending very much time on the problem.

When women have economic empowerment it is a way for others to see them as equal members of society. The freedom of making a choice for oneself is key to women's empowerment and women's liberation. Women empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. Women empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic political to ensure equal right to women and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as freely live their life with a sense of self-worth; respect and dignity. They should have complete control of their life both within and outside of their home. They can their decisions freely and have equal right to participate in every types of field like social religious and public activities.

The empowerment of women would result in overall development of society. Their active participation in economic activities and taking decisions would contribute towards all over economic development. Women are an important element of our society. The modern society has started recognizing the individual identity of women. She is believed to have her aspiration, abilities and qualities as a man. She should have the opportunities to develop her faculties and to express them according to her own choice. She can develop herself in every field of society.

Women can help the society in various ways. They can engage in social activities and work for the betterment of the society. She can provide education to future generation. Society needs more doctors, engineers, software developers and social workers. The world cannot grow unless women came forward and take initiative for the development works. As a mother, her role in the development of the emotional psychological aspect of the new born child has been also very significant. She was not only the creator and maintainer of her child but an educator and disciplinarian as well. The woman is now an important instrument of social change.

Women's interest and participation in social life is increasing. Women are participating in social organizations and are developing taste for leading a life of social involvement. There are many people and organizations have been working for the development of social and economic position of women. Despite such outstanding instances, the position, status and condition of women in India was poor. The joint family is a source of great strength to women.

Everyone wishes to own their own land. So why not woman? Land is indeed a scarce precious resource and it may not be possible for everyone to own one's own land but when women from more than half of the population and work as hard as men for daily sustenance. As Virginia Woolf asked in her famous essay, "A Room of one's own. Why are women so poor?" Why is it that even education or a high income has not been able to guarantee Women's right. Women did not have as much power in their society as men.

In her novels she has shown that women are not lesser human beings, rather they are sometime more dignified than men because of their greater human virtues and qualities. They need to be given their rightful place and dignity in the family and society for their well-being. She described her novels poverty, exploitation and women empowerment. Anil Kumar Bhatnagar in his Kamala Markandaya : A thematic study says she makes her readers realize the true meaning of hunger, starvation and women's equal rights as men. She lived in South Indian Villages and shared the suffering of villagers or independent observer. Social roles for women were also changing in post-independence India, and what a woman

valued, as well as how she herself should be valued within the society.

It is fact that women did not have as much power in their society as men. Women are definitely restricted in a formal sense, but many restrictions have been breaking and ignoring.

## **CONCLUSION**

Among her contemporary women writers she occupies an eminent place. Dr. A.V. Krishna Rao consider Kamala Markandaya as the reflective writers who attempted to bring forth the image of changing Indian society. As such Markandaya merits special mention both by virtue of variety and complexity of her achievement. She not only describe poverty, hunger exploitation but also how can women achieve their position in the society. The national consciousness of variety of forms with feminine sensibility of modern women is fully reflected in her novels. But now a days they are allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefits her individually but to the whole world at large.

Women have proven that they are not subversive to man anymore and that more than anyone else they are the one who must acquire proper education for they are the primary nurturers of their children. Their duty don't just limit as a wife and a mother, but as a source of strength and positive outlook within their family. Women nowadays are empowered for they are in cautions and emotionally strong.

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