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About the College ……



Established in 1972, Waghire College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Saswad, Pune, is spread across a 9-acre campus and has been providing quality higher education for over five decades. Guided by its vision of imparting value-based education, the college empowers students, particularly from rural and hilly areas, and nurtures responsible citizens with strong moral values and national spirit. The college has received DST-FIST grants and DBT-STAR Status, and was accredited by NAAC with B++ Grade in the Fourth Cycle in 2024**.** It offers B.A., B.Com. B.Sc, BCS, BBA, BBA (CA), 12 PG programmes, UGC-sponsored B.Voc. Courses, and has Research Centres in English, Chemistry, and Commerce**, catering to** over 5,000 students



An international conference organized by the Department of English and Research Centre, PDEA's Waghire College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Saswad, and the periodic publication of total 151 research papers derived from it, is a matter of great pride and honour. I feel that the deliberation on the topic "***LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY: EMERGING TRENDS IN ENGLISH STUDIES***" is not merely an academic initiative but is shaping into a broad intellectual movement. This conference provided an excellent platform for intellectual discourse and knowledge sharing on emerging developments in English studies. I am confident that the research papers and discussions presented during this conference will contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge and provide valuable insights for policymakers, industry leaders, and scholars. The compilation of research papers from this seminar will serve as a valuable resource for students, researchers, educators, and professionals alike. I whole heartedly congratulate all the organizing committee members, Coordinator, faculty members, researchers and students who contributed to this initiative. I am confident that such high-quality academic efforts will inspire further research and innovation in emerging technologies. With these thoughts, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to this publication.

Hon. Sunetra Ajitdada Pawar

(Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra State)

(President, Pune District Education Association's, Pune)

Best Wishes & Greetings ……



It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all the delegates, researchers, academicians, industry experts, and students participating in the International Conference on "***LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY: EMERGING TRENDS IN ENGLISH STUDIES***". In this dynamic environment, academic institutions and industry stakeholders have a crucial role in fostering knowledge, research, and collaboration that contribute to sustainable economic and social development. Such research-driven efforts ignite curiosity among students and give clear direction to young researchers entering this field. I am confident this periodical will serve not just as conference proceedings but as a valuable reference for academicians, technologists, and industry professionals. It will help bridge the gap between academic research and real-world implementation of intelligent systems. I am confident that the deliberations and research papers presented during this conference will generate valuable insights, inspire innovative thinking, and contribute significantly to academic and professional development. I extend my best wishes for the grand success of the conference and congratulate all the authors whose scholarly work has enriched this journal.

Hon. Rajendra Ghadage
(Vice-President, Pune District Education Association's)
Best Wishes & Greetings ……



I extend my sincere congratulations to the organizers for successfully convening an International Conference on "***LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY: EMERGING TRENDS IN ENGLISH STUDIES***." This conference serves as an important platform for intellectual exchange, enabling participants to share research findings, innovative practices, and forward-looking perspectives that contribute to sustainable progress in the digital age. The theme of this conference is highly relevant in today's global context, where culture and society are continuously adapting to technological disruptions, evolving expectations, and sustainability imperatives. The deliberations, research papers, and discussions presented during this conference are expected to generate valuable insights and practical solutions that will benefit academia, industry, policymakers, and society at large. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the Organizing Committee, Advisory Board, Session Chairs, Reviewers, and all contributors whose dedication and commitment have made this international conference a reality. I also congratulate all authors and presenters for their valuable contributions to this conference proceedings and journal.

Hon. Sandip Kadam
Secretory, Pune District Education Association's
Best Wishes & Greetings ……



From the Principal's Desk

It gives me immense pleasure to present this special issue of the conference proceedings and journal publication of the International Conference on **"Literature, Culture, and Society: Emerging Trends in English Studies."** This conference has provided a vibrant academic platform for scholars, researchers, teachers, and students from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue on the evolving dimensions of English Studies in the twenty-first century. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the authors whose valuable contributions have made this publication possible. I also express my sincere appreciation to the organizing committee, reviewers, editors, keynote speakers, and participants for their dedication and scholarly commitment. Their collective efforts have ensured the success of this international academic endeavor. Principal Dr. Pandit Nivrattirao Shelke is a prominent Indian academic and administrator serving as the Principal of PDEA's Waghire College, Saswad, Pune. He is an active physics researcher. His expertise focuses on multidisciplinary physics, specifically in material science, gas sensors, and solar technology. He is recognised M.Phil and Ph.D. research guide in Savitribai Phule Pune University. 1 student has been awarded Ph.D. degree and 6 students are pursuing Ph.D. under his guidance. He has more than 32 years administrative experience as principal, Member of BOS in Physics, Director, Board of Students' Welfare, SSPU, Pune, Program Coordinator NSS, SPPU, Pune and many other committees**.** He has presented and published more than 54 research papers in National & International Seminars and Conferences in India and Abroad. More than 500 lectures delivered on different issues in various colleges affiliated to SPPU for Students' Personality Development and Carrier Guidance. He has author of 37 text and reference books. He is recipient of Best Teacher, Best Principal and many other awards from various institutions.

Dr. Pandit Shelke
Principal
Waghire College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Saswad



Dr. Sanjay Haribhau Zagade is the Vice-Principal, Professor and Head of the Department of English, and Coordinator of the Ph.D. Research Centre at Waghire College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Saswad, Pune. He has 27 years of undergraduate and 21 years of postgraduate teaching experience. A recognized Ph.D. Guide, he has guided two Ph.D. scholars and is currently supervising seven doctoral candidates. A recipient of the Best Teacher Award (2021) conferred by the Maharashtra Marathi Sahitya Parishad, he serves as a Board of Studies (BoS) Member at H.V. Desai College, Pune, and as an External Expert on the School of Research Committee at JSPM University.

Dr.Sanjay Haribhau Zagade has held several key academic and administrative positions, including IQAC Coordinator, Controller of Examinations, NSS Programme Officer, and Nodal Officer for AISHE. He has published 46 research papers in reputed national and international peer-reviewed journals and is a sought-after resource person, delivering lectures and conducting workshops on the NAAC accreditation framework, quality assurance, and higher education at various colleges and institutions. He has made significant contributions to teaching, research, academic administration, and quality enhancement in higher education.

Prof Dr Sanjay Haribahu Zagade
(Co-Convener)



Prof. Dr. Vijaykumar Punekar is working as a professor in the Department of English and Research Centre, PDEA's Waghire College of Arts Commerce and Science Saswad. He qualified SET exam in 2006, completed Ph.D from Savitribai Phule Pune University in 2016. As a research guide, 1 student completed Ph.D. under his guidance and currently 5 students have been registered for doctoral degree. He authored a book entitled Parameters of Science Fiction. He has presented 20 research papers in National & International Seminars and Conferences in India and published 23 research papers in various reputed National and International journals.

Prof. DrVijaykumar Punekar
(Coordinator)

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Feminine Sensibility in the Poems of Kamala Das

Dr. Karandikar Vallabh Shankar

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Abstract:
Kamala Das is an iconic Indian poetess who is well-known for her feminine sensibility in her English and Malayalam poetry. Her confessional mode, fearlessness, boldness and voice against male -dominated society accords her a special status. The personal and emotional world of women in a patriarchal society is the main concern in her poetry. The present paper attempts to shed light on some of her famous poems through which she rebels against the male-dominated society. She narrates the experiences of women in her poems and speaks out for change in society. Kamal Das resists the historical and traditional norms and tries to perform her role as a feminist to bring about changes in society. She tries to highlight the stark reality in society by depicting the status of women and their sufferings. The themes and style of Kamala Das's poetry reflect the true picture of womanhood, which needs to be changed. She is criticised by many critics for her unapologetic picture of female sexuality and for breaking the traditional gender norms. The feminist voice of Kamala Das has become a source of inspiration for the suffering women who have been tortured in this male-dominated society.

Keywords*: Feminine sensibility, confessional mode, patriarchal society, traditional norms, gender norms, feminist voice.*

Introduction

The sensibility presented in poetry expresses the poet's observations, feelings, emotions, experiences, consciousness, responsiveness and ability to appreciate. "*One of the most aggressively individualistic of the new poets is Kamala Das.*" (Iyengar 677). Kamala Das has given a new dimension to Indian writings in English. She has composed poems in English and Malayalam. Her poetry collections *Summer in Calcutta*, *The Descendents*, *The Old Playhouse and Other Poems* highlight the predicament of women in the patriarchal society. Her novel *Alphabet of Lust*, short story *A Doll for the Child Prostitute* and autobiography *My Story* depicts the sexual exploitation of women in society. The reputation of Kamala Das rests on her poetry and her notoriety from her autobiography. (Gupta 46). This paper attempts to highlight the feminine sensibility in the poems of Kamala Das. The various approaches and dimensions of feminine sensibility are taken into consideration. It shows the feminist perspective of Kamala Das. The various aspects of feminine sensibility are explained in this paper, explaining various poems of Kamala Das.

Defining Feminine Sensibility:

The term feminine focuses on the characteristics of the female gender that are traditionally suitable for women. The term sensibility focuses on sensitiveness. In the Indian context, feminine sensibility is a perspective that shows awareness about womanhood. In literature, many poets have depicted the inner struggles of women through their challenges and problems. The problems of women are explored, focusing on different dimensions and applying various approaches. Kamala Das has tried to highlight different problems of women. Das has highlighted her personal experiences in her poetry, which are representative in nature. Understanding her personal emotions, experiences and sufferings through her confessional mode is an interesting study. Das's poetry shows her gender consciousness, female identity, and social, traditional, cultural and political diplomacy. The language, tone, mood and themes in the poems of Das depict feminine sensibility.

Literature Review:

Many Indian poets have focused on feminine sensibility in their poetry by highlighting traditional systems. cultural experiences and societal norms through their poetic expressions. The feminist perspective tries to highlight the problems of women, their suffering conditions. Male dominance, sexual exploitation, alienation, suffering conditions and desires and expectations are some of the important factors highlighted by many poets such as Kamala Das, Sarojini Naidu, Amrita Pritam, and Gauri Deshpande. These poets have highlighted feminine sensibility in their poetry by highlighting their identity, suffering, love, loneliness, female emotions, sexual exploitation and expectations. They have voiced for equality and freedom by depicting oppressive social, political, geographical, cultural and traditional practices in the society. The conventional roles of women are focused on by these poets to show how women suffer in their lives.

Themes Reflecting Feminine Sensibility in the Poems of Kamala Das: Kamala Das is known for her bold and candid tone. She expresses feminine sensibility through the themes in her poems. Being a confession poet, she highlights her personal experiences to shed light on the factors that make women suffer. Major themes in her poetry are: male domination, sufferings of women, identity conflict, marital issues, female protest, betrayal, childhood experiences, sexual exploitation, social hypocrisy, longing for true love and equal status. Through these themes, Kamala Das has presented feminine sensibility in her poetry.

Reflection of Feminine Sensibility in the Poems of Kamala Das

This paper tries to highlight the feminine sensibility in the poems of Kamala Das, highlighting various aspects in the poems. Some poems from the collections of Kamala Das are explained to show the feminine sensibility in her poems. Kamala Das criticises the male-dominated society and
the traditional norms by expressing her strong dissatisfaction with so called civilized sextual morality and social standards in her poems. (Sinha 117). Das's poetry criticises the traditional norms based on male domination.

The feminine sensibility of Das is reflected through the following poems, which challenge traditional social norms and expose social reality, terror, political lechery and hypocrisy. ***An Introduction*** is one of the evocative poems. In it, Das maps out the social customs that seek to keep the woman in a perpetual bondage of convictions. (Chakrabarti 175). The following lines in the poem of Kamala Das highlight how a woman is expected to perform her traditional role of a mother, wife and daughter.

"Dress in sarees, be girl/Be wife, they said. Be embroiderer, be cook, /
Be a quarreller with servants. Fit in/."
(Das "An Introduction" lines 36-42)

Through these lines, Das criticises the traditional social norms that give no power, status and freedom to women.

Das becomes the voice of feminine sensibility by giving a new dimension to her poems. Her frank and candid tone enables her to depict the social reality. Her use of the personal pronoun "I" in her poems expresses her longings, expectations and problems. Moreover, it becomes the loud voice of women in general. She boldly challenges the patriarchal mechanism and speaks out against injustice. She expresses her unfulfilled desires and sexual exploitation. In *An Introduction,* Das says:

"When I asked for love, not knowing what else to ask
For he drew a youth of sixteen into the
Bedroom and closed the door, He did not beat me
But my sad woman-body felt so beaten." (Das. "An Introduction" lines 28-31)

These lines indicate how women are treated as pleasure-giving objects whenever men desire. Men enjoy the female body without bothering about female feelings and expectations. Das has described these feelings and expectations to show female exploitation. A woman is always treated as secondary. She is treated badly in society.

In the poem, ***The Freaks*** Das highlights the relationship that is not based on love.

"He talks, turning a sun-stained/cheek to me, his mouth, a dark /cavern, where stalactites of /uneven teeth gleam, his right/ hand on my knee, while our minds/ are willed to race towards love;/But they only wander, tripping" (Das "The Freaks" lines 1-7*)*.

These lines focus the male partner who is ugly, lustful and repulsive. He tries to enjoy her physical body. There is no emotional involvement. It shows the lust of the male partner who wants to enjoy the female body and nothing else. Das wants to indicate that they also want to love and enjoy with their partner, but their emotions, desires and expectations are not at all considered by their partners.

The suffering condition of a married woman is highlighted by Das in her poem ***The Grandmother's House*****.** Das confesses that she didn't receive love after her marriage, which she received from her grandmother when she was alive. It shows the plight of the married woman who suffers because of male domination. The difference between childhood life and married life is highlighted in the poem. The grandmother's house symbolises security and love. But the grandmother's death and the decay of the old house bring darkness and loneliness. Loneliness and loss of love is experienced by the poet in the absence of the grandmother; it sheds light on the insecure and troublesome life of a woman after her marriage. The poet's feminine sensibility is reflected through her loveless relationship and pessimism in the poem. The deathlike silence in the grandmother's house indicates loss for the poet. The desire to meet the grandmother and her house shows the attachment of the poet to her grandmother.

"I who have lost/My way and beg now at strangers' doors to/Receive love, --"(Das "My Grandmother's House" lines 14-16)

The death of the grandmother makes the poet suffer from her great loss. Life becomes loveless and miserable for her. She hopes for love but feels like a stranger in the absence of her grandmother.

In the poem, ***The Sunshine Cat***, Das shows how a woman is betrayed by her lovers. A woman is considered only as an object of happiness. Her feelings, emotions and expectations are not considered, and therefore, she feels lonely and neglected. Sexual exploitation is one of the prominent themes in the poems of Kamala Das. *The Sunshine Cat* highlights the difference between love and lust. The impact of lust is presented in the poem. The husband in the poem neglects the wife without understanding or caring about her feelings and emotions. It makes the woman suffer. The woman in the poem suffers because of her lusty, selfish and cruel husband. Frustration in marriage and extra-marital relations destroys their family life.

The poem, ***The Old Playhouse,*** tries to describe the relationship between the husband and the wife. In this poem, the image of a sparrow stands for the poetess who didn't get freedom in her life. The poet's mind is compared with the old

playhouse with the lights off. The darkness indicates loneliness. The valueless life of the woman makes her suffer. This poem shows the traditional marriage system, in which the husband dominates his wife and makes her behave as per his expectations. It makes her unhappy as she is denied freedom and neglected in her life.

The poem, ***Relationship***, by Kamala Das introspects contemporary social reality and explores the complexities of love, needs and betrayal in a relationship. The frustration of the woman caused by her unfulfilled desires for her companion highlights failure in the relationship. The following lines indicate the experience of the woman who suffers from the betrayal of her companion. Her frustration and helplessness in indicated in the following lines.

"My body's wisdom tells and tells again
That I shall find my rest, my sleep, my peace
And even death nowhere else but here in
My betrayer's arms..." (Das "Relationship" lines 14-17)

The language and tone in the poem, ***Forest Fire***, highlight the inner desire of the poet. The title of the poem is symbolic. The fire is the forest that consumes everything; it is the destructive force that destroys everything. Through this poem, the poet expresses her inner fire, which is as destructive as a forest fire. The poet desires to be destructive to end her problems. This creative use of language, tone of the poet and imagery highlights feminine sensibility. This poem shows the inner feelings of woman through the creative force of the poet which is based on the poets strange and shocking experiences in life. As the fire destroys everything in its path, in the same way, the poet wishes to destroy all the problems of woman which make them suffer. Therefore, the poet says:

"My eyes lick at you like flames, my nerves
Consume; and, when I finish with you, (Das "Forest Fire" lines 8-9)

The confessional mode of Kamala Das expresses the plight of the woman she suffers from. Her hopes are also reflected in the confessional mode. In the poem, ***In Love***, the poet narrates her sexual experience. The lover in the poem is passionate and enjoys sexual pleasure, but the sexual experience is merely the passion for sex; it has no emotional involvement. It is the most common experience of women which poet shares boldly.

"*--Million questions awake in*
Me, and all about him, and
This skin-communicated
Thing that I dare not yet in
His presence call our love." (Das "Love" lines 23-27)

Kamala Das in her poem, ***The Suicide***, shows a desire for suicide due to unhappiness in life. The mental stress and suffering of a woman is highlighted in this poem. The symbolic use of the sea expresses freedom and the desire to escape from mundane life.

"O sea, i am fed up
I want to be simple
I want to be loved
And
If love is not to be had,
I want to be dead," (Das "The Suicide" lines 27-32)

The woman in the poem is fed up with her routine life. She expects love in life. The feminine sensibility of the poet is seen through her protest against patriarchal society and her desire to live a carefree life. The wish to live a simple and free life is the expectation of the woman, but if she didn't get love, she prefers to die.

The poem, ***A Losing Battle***, expresses love as a losing battle. As the title symbolises, in the battle of love, women are trapped, and they experience the worthiness of men. The tone of the poem expresses the frustration of a woman in a male-dominated society where her feelings and desires are not considered. The poet highlights men as beasts. Their worthless primal instincts are criticized. The following lines in the poem show the worthlessness of a man who is not faithful and capable of love:

"Men are worthless, to trap them/Use the cheapest bait of all, but never/Love,"(Das "A Losing Battle" lines 3-5)

The poem, ***Words***, highlights the power of words. Kamala Das, in her poems, expresses her poetic talent through words. Her poems become appealing due to her diction, tone and imagery. It also highlights her ability and feminine sensibility. These words become a weapon for her to fight against traditional customs and a male-dominated society. The following lines show the poetic talent of the poet:

"All round me are words, and words and words,
They grow on me like leaves, they never
Seem to stop their slow growing
From within.." (Das "Words" lines 1-4).

The poet. highlights the nature, power and importance of language. It has the ability to create and destroy. The artistic expression of the poet enables her to create tension in her poem by focusing on her inner world. The artistic and poetic expressions highlight the real power of the poet, and Kamala Das succeeds in her attempt to depict her inner wishes using the most appropriate, natural, effective and powerful words.

In the poem, ***The Stone Age***, the husband is called the ancient settler and fat spider, who makes his wife work just like a slave without bothering about her expectations. The poet raises the question in the mind of the woman whose sorrowful and loveless life becomes torture for her. The following lines reflect the life of the woman after marriage:

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"Ask me why life is short and love is
Shorter still, ask me what is bliss and what its price..." (Das "The Stone Age" lines 21-22)

This confessional mode and cry of the woman in the poem highlight the plight of women after marriage. The neglected life of the married woman makes her suffer. This poem shows the loss of female identity. Her condition is compared with a granite dove, which is lifeless and has no value. Kamala Das exposes the marital relationship of the couple, which is not based on love. The selfish and lustful nature of the husband makes the life of the wife problematic and troublesome.

The above poems highlight the female voice of Kamala Das, which depicts the various problems of women in general. The confessional mode of the poet and her narrated experiences depict the stark reality in society. Kamala Das has presented different issues in her poems by applying a feminist lens. Traditional marriage systems, social and cultural practices, protests, suffering, nostalgia, childhood experiences, loveless relationships, desires, expectations and sexual exploitations are some of the issues highlighted by Kamala Das in the above -mentioned poems to depict feminine sensibility in her poems.

Conclusion

The confessional mode of Kamala Das and her bold voice against an oppressive male-dominated society accords her a special status. The poems highlighted in this paper shed light on her feminine sensibility through her feminist perspective. Her voice no longer remains personal but becomes a loud cry of the suffering women in society. Her boldness and opposition to the traditional norms become a subject of criticism. The contribution of Kamala Das as an English poet and Madhavikutty in Malayalam shows her bilingual capabilities. Her courage to fight against a male-dominated society and traditional practices became a voice for the voiceless women. The use of diction, style, tone, imagery and use of personal pronouns make her poems very special, interesting and motivating. She has become a voice of the generation as her ideas appeal to us. Her conversion to Islam highlights her inner desires and expectations. She has depicted, in her poems, very beautifully the traditional practices in the male-dominated society and female expectations. Her rebellion against the social evils, her boldness, ability, creativity and diction accord her a crucial status in Indian literature.

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