



---

**GENDER INEQUALITY IN SELECTED NOVELS OF SHASHI  
DESHPANDE AND ANITA DESAI: A STUDY**



**Dr. Rupali Hiwarkar**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of English,  
Vivekanand College, Aurangabad, MS, India  
Email ID : [drupalinet@gmail.com](mailto:drupalinet@gmail.com)

*"It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing".*

- Swami Vivekananda

**ABSTRACT**

*The distinction between male and female is very real and very deeply rooted in human nature and human physiology. The research indicates that its universal from culture to culture and it finds expression in almost every area of life. According to the biblical view of mankind, we are told that " God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female. On other side, Hindu texts present divergent and antagonistic views on the position of women, ranging from feminine leadership as the highest goddess, to limiting her role to an obedient daughter, house wife and mother. The main purpose of the paper to highlight the issues related to gender inequality in Indian English literature with a special reference in the selected novels of Shashi Deshpande and Anita Desai. And to understand the depiction of feminine issues in the selected novels and to study Indian women's insecurities and struggle in accordance which social, historical, cultural, religious atmosphere of Indian society. This paper explores that as the society is developed in 21st century the position and respect of women become progressively worse after so many constitutional provisions are not sufficient to get the respectable position in society. In the course of time, the picture is completely changed. The position of woman in our society has undergone a drastic change. The predicament of women, the so-called 'Pre ponderance' was completely changed. The Goddess of ancient times now becomes an object of victimization by male dominated society. Our religion and culture makes woman a Goddess but unfortunately, we fail to recognize her as a human being.*

**KEYWORDS**

*Inequality, Gender, Women, Culture, Indian Society*