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Women in the inscription of Rabindranath Tagore

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Abstract :

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a liberal humanist who desired a new social order where women are not bound by shackles of patriarchy. Born into a progressive family, he had observed closely the stifling condition of 19th-century Bengal. His creativity captured the multifaceted torment on women in a conservative socio-cultural milieu. This paper analyzes the concept of emancipation of women in 19th century Bengal and discusses the struggle of a woman to achieve emancipation from confinement. The issues of child marriage, forced arranged marriage, poor condition of childbirth room, subordination of women, and women's helplessness in a joint family are all vehemently criticized with poignancy and insight. He advocates escape route of breaking the shackles of traditional roles of a woman to emerge victorious in the story.

The paper also examines Rabindranath Tagore's involvement with the wave of feminist approaches in his works in the nineteenth century Bengal. Acknowledged particularly for his collection of poems, stories, prose, novels, Tagore placed women at the forefront in his novels to convey feminism. His pen became the tool for expressing his belief for the betterment of women or empowering them through his different writings. His inscription generally focuses on women's equality, liberalization, freedom, dignity and rights. Tagore portrays the merciless society has obstructed the thoughts of the women to express their thoughts and feelings. The methodology used in the study is content analysis on the type of literature Tagore provided in his study about the women in his different stories and novels.

Key words: Women, patriarchy, struggle of woman

