

# The Influence of Patriarchal Society on the Reconstruction of Feminine Identity in the Selected Novels of R. K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand: A Comparative Study

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**Abstract**—The study compares how patriarchal culture affects the reconstruction of the feminine self in several novels by top Indian authors R.K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand. The writers examine social dynamics and cultural influences to highlight the difficulties women face when redefining themselves in patriarchal societies. In *The Guide* and *The Dark Room*, R.K. Narayan portrays women within Indian culture. Rosie and Savitri show how women struggle to escape cultural norms. Rosie breaks patriarchal norms by becoming a dancer, and Savitri's journey from modest housewife to confident woman illustrates women's challenges. Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* and *Two Leaves and a Bud* graphically show how patriarchy affects women. Female tea plantation workers, Bakha's sister, and other Anand characters represent women's oppression and exploitation due to class hierarchies and societal norms. The characters' fight for equality and dignity is shaped by class and gender relations. The study uses secondary and qualitative research methods and pragmatism to understand the reconstruction of the feminine character in these two authors' novels. As the discussion and analysis section shows, both authors wanted to show women's efforts to escape their misery by empowering them because they could not make independent decisions. Both authors discuss how patriarchal ideas and social norms shape feminine identity and women's struggles for self-discovery, independence, and empowerment. Narayan and Anand's female protagonists challenge social norms and fight for equality.

**Index Terms**—feminine identity, patriarchy, feminism, pragmatism

## I. INTRODUCTION

Famous Indian authors R.K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand both frequently explore the societal dynamics and cultural influences of respective eras in their writing. Both authors have highlighted the impact of patriarchal culture on the rebuilding of feminine identity in their novels, which is a prominent literary issue. While the present study has been aimed at the determination of the influence of the patriarchal society on the feminine identity, the use of comparison is done in the present case where some selected novels of the two authors are compared to determine the main aspect of the novel. In the Literature review section, a comparative evaluation of the different themes arising from the selected novels of the two authors and the main influence of the patriarchal society on the reconstruction of the feminine identity within the novel are described through the same.

### A. Character Portraying of the Two Authors

In the novels of the author R.K. Narayan, the women characters are portrayed as typical conservative Indian women where the presence of a head character in the family in the form of male has been evident. In his fictitious hamlet of Malgudi, R.K. Narayan frequently depicts the archaic and conservative social conventions that influence women's life. One of his well-known works, "The Guide," sheds light on Rosie's hardships as a gifted actor and dancer. A patriarchal culture rejects Rosie's efforts to defy norms and follow her passion and judges her for doing so. Her journey serves as a metaphor for the difficulties women have while attempting to reimagine their feminine selves outside of the traditional roles (Akhter & Devi, 2022).

Savitri, a character in "The Dark Room," is a lady stuck in an unpleasant marriage. Narayan emphasised how Savitri's attempted to show her uniqueness are impeded by society conventions and how her identity is defined by her roles as a wife and mother. The novel has illustrated how patriarchy affects women's decisions and agency, which results in a struggle for self-awareness and empowerment.

On the other hand, the feminine characters portrayed in the novels of Mulk Raj Anand the indominated condition of the woman under the typical patriarchal society and the conditions of the Indian women are portrayed here. Novels by Mulk Raj Anand also explore how patriarchal society affects women's identities. In "Untouchable," Anand uses Bakha's sister as a representation of the oppression that women experience as a result of the caste system. Her gender-based restrictions are a reflection of greater patriarchal society restrictions (Alam, 2021).

Anand's novel "Two Leaves and a Bud" provides a description of the exploitation experienced by female tea plantation workers. In order to show how women from disadvantaged origins are subjected to the harsh realities of both patriarchy and economic exploitation, the novel explores the confluence of gender and class oppression. The battle of the female characters for equality and dignity serves as the narrative's main topic.

#### *B. Comparison of Similarity and Differences Between the Two*

In general, R.K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand use their works to highlight how patriarchal ideals and societal conventions define and limit feminine identity. They show how women must overcome obstacles and exercise their agency in order to reimagine who they are in the face of these limitations. These authors provide insights into the continuous battle for gender equality and empowerment through their writing, which also illuminates the complexity of the female experience in a patriarchal culture.

#### *C. Main Revelations in the Study*

The present study is developed based on the comparative analysis of the impact of the patriarchal society on the women in their novels. The literature review section aims to determine the aspect of reconstruction of the feminine identity and in the Indian context. As indicated in the present section, it can be described that there has been an impregnable impact of the patriarchal society on women and their freedom. The methodology section describes the process of the secondary data collection and comparative analysis where the research objectives are stated before that. From the understanding of the different aspects of the selected novels of the two writers, the description of the results based on the discussion is presented in the results and discussions

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### *A. Definition of Reconstruction of Feminine Identity*

The term "reconstruction of feminine identity" refers to the process of redefining and remaking women's roles, representations, and societal perceptions during a certain historical period or cultural setting. The "Reconstruction of Feminine Identity" refers to the changes and developments in how women were regarded and presented in society, particularly in theatre and public life. Women's responsibilities and visibility changed during this time period. Following a period of Puritan rule in which women's engagement in theatre and public life was restricted, the Restoration ushered in a period in which women began to participate more actively in the theatrical scene, serving as actresses and playwrights (Meena, 2023).

### *B. The Concept of Reconstruction Feminine Identity in the Context of India*

The concept of reconstruction of feminine identity in the particular context of India has always been perceived in the social, political and economic context in which the particular piece of literature is written. For example, the concept of reconstructing feminine identity especially those relating to the restoration of women's rights, representation, emancipation and social outlook have always been challenged by both male and female writers (Kumar, 2022). The challenges to the social standards considering gender role, patriarchy, discrimination and injustice were among the most common themes in the writings of Mulk Raj Anand and RK Narayanan. In India however the concept of feminism has definitely undergone multiple levels of changes and adjustments according to its historical and cultural background. For example, in India the fight for women's rights has always been supported by political representation, opening of economic possibilities for further access to education and healthcare (Mund, 2021). This is one of the limitations of the literature that the scope of redefining women's role in modern society often took the back seat in favour of creating tantalising characters who play second fiddle to the main protagonist.

Indian literature has definitely played its due importance in reflecting how some cultural norms and dynamics about the role and responsibility of a woman in regards to her social identity have faced barriers and oppression through the ages. The limitations of social and political rights, orthodox social constraints have been reflected mostly in stories dealing with rustic Indian life (John, 2023). The requirement for recreating feminine identity in the light of that of western philosophy was the common practice among various Indian English authors. However, in the works of both R K Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand the characters always borrow from the mythological archetypes from that of Indian epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. The importance of various feminine identities such as strong moral character, perseverance and tenacity has often been borrowed by Indian authors for their own female characters. The question of patriarchal influence can be established with such practices, how about the input is always to justify the actions of women against a society and value system that holds them in contempt. These early portraits have definitely provided the basic ground work required for future feminist driven literature regarding women's agency and autonomy in modern India (Meena, 2023).

The various languages and different colloquial cultures in India have often possessed different perceptions on feminism and female identity. The lack of a national drive towards a unified idea of feminism had not arrived until the late 1980s. This differently created a particular time frame of vacuum where the majority of the literature relied heavily on the particular subculture from which the author belonged. This is much more prominent in the works of Amrita Pritam and Kusum Ansal. The scope of broadening the conversation regarding feminism on the national level was seldom supported by the literary work themselves. The assertion of women hood beyond the subcultural context of expectations and stereotyping were constant practices among many of the authors and researchers in this particular time in Indian English history. The influence of the overarching patriarchal society has definitely helped pave the way for future movement in feminist literature. R.K Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand can be seen as two distinct examples of this effort.

The concept of the 'New Woman' seeking financial autonomy, education, and self-discovery was promoted in post-independence literature. This new identity questions established roles while emphasising the value of personal agency. These images, which reflect shifting society standards, contribute to the continuing reconstruction of feminine identity. In Indian literature, feminism has also acknowledged the interconnectedness of women's lives. Authors have discussed how elements such as caste, class, as well as sexual orientation overlap with gender, shaping women's challenges and identities in many ways. This intersectional viewpoint broadens the scope of feminist debate (Garg, 2023).

### C. *The Influence of Patriarchal Society on Feminine Identity*

The majority of the Indian novelists and authors had very diverse views on the subject of representation of female identity and the "restoration" on the different levels of social hierarchies. R. K. Narayanan and Mulk Raj Anand are among the most notable authors in Indian English literature who have actively sought out interesting and insightful female characters in their works time and time again. The influencer of social perception of patriarchy is in full exposure in both of their work with an undertone that delves into character study. R. K. Narayan's writings, notably his handling of female characters and their changing positions, can be called feminist in nature (Garg, 2023). Despite openly labelling himself as a feminist, his paintings show female characters gradually evolving from traditional, submissive positions to more aggressive and autonomous ones, often questioning societal conventions and expectations. In Narayan's novels, two generations of women are depicted: the elder generation, which adheres to conventional values, conventions, and taboos, and the newer generation, which breaks free from these limitations. Examples of changing female characters include:

**Savitri (The Dark Room):** Savitri's transformation from a meek housewife to a self-assured individual mirrors the plight of many women within conventional Indian society. Her retreat to the "dark room" represents her contemplation and defiance in the face of injustice. The choice she made to leave her husband and eventually return with newly discovered self-awareness represents a transition towards self-assertion.

**Rosie (The Guide):** Rosie's resistance to adhere to society norms is obvious in her decision to leave a suffocating marriage and pursue a career as a dancer. She breaks convention by marrying Raju, a tourist guide, but eventually divorces him after seeing she is being taken advantage of. Rosie's pursuit of her interests demonstrates her drive for self-expression and personal development.

R. K. Narayan's works depict women's roles evolving from old norms to more independent and aggressive positions. While he does not explicitly identify as a feminist, his works address feminist issues by addressing the struggles and ambitions of women in a changing society. The analysis concludes that Narayan's handling of female characters is consistent with feminist literature's goals of promoting gender equality and challenging societal constraints.

Mulk Raj Anand digs into the diverse hardships and achievements of women as they fight with societal standards, sexism, and their personal desire for self-discovery and empowerment in "Gauri" and his greater literary work. Anand expertly confronts the complicated subject of female identity reconstruction in a patriarchal society through nuanced character development, engaging tales, and intelligent criticism. "Gauri," one of Anand's seminal works in this regard, takes an in-depth look into the life of its titular protagonist. Gauri's story exemplifies the difficulties faced by many Indian women who are bound inside the limits of traditional roles and expectations. Women's autonomy is frequently limited by society and cultural standards, making them subordinate to the patriarchal order. Anand's portrayal of Gauri, on the other hand, deviates from the usual. Gauri transforms from a submissive into a beacon of strength and resolve in order to overcome her challenges and set a new bar for her character arc (Kumar, 2022).

Furthermore, Anand's larger body of work, beyond "Gauri," covers the issue of feminine identity and the role of masculinity in a similar way. His novels, short stories, and essays weave a tapestry that depicts the difficulties and accomplishments of women in India. Anand provides a vivid picture of women's problems and achievements as they assert their agency, defy restrictive standards, and reinvent their identities via various characters and circumstances.

### D. *Reconstruction of Feminine Identity in Indian Literature*

The reconstruction of feminine identity in Anand's work comes in multiple ways. For example, the struggle against patriarchy, superstition and oppression, gender double standards and resistance and self-affirmation. Feminism is a driving force in literary criticism, bringing insights on society standards and women's rights. Women's struggles for identification and uniqueness are portrayed in Indian English literature, frequently through the portrayal of oppressed female characters. Mulk Raj Anand's novel "The Old Woman and the Cow" goes on female issues, exemplifying

Anand's dedication to correcting societal inequalities. Gauri, the key character, swings from submission to assertiveness, showing Anand's compassion for downtrodden women. Arranged marriages, male domination, marital abuse, and the intricate interplay between cultural expectations and individual aspirations are all explored in the story. Anand criticises the patriarchal system for perpetuating women's marginalisation, resulting in their fights for empowerment and the rehabilitation of their feminine identities.

Feminism emerges as a critical reaction to women's historical and contemporary oppression, encompassing both social and political spheres. The story of women's struggle for equality in India is profoundly entwined with cultural, religious, and socioeconomic intricacies. Mythological stories like "The Ramayana" and "Mahabharata" depict women's subjugation. Rosie's character also exemplifies the coercion and objectification she experiences at the hands of male characters, particularly Raju, who admires and exploits her abilities.

The novels of Narayan reflect a generational transformation in feminine identity. Older women comply with social conventions, whereas younger women have more agency, education, and confidence. This progression emphasises Narayan's subtle yet progressive depiction of women's independence and empowerment within Indian society. Narayan's goal is to encourage women to embrace their uniqueness. His tales are about women who must strike a balance among modernity and tradition, between homemaking and education. While older women conform to social conventions, newer generations fight for their liberties and dignity. Narayan's women's liberation movement progresses in stages, by beginning with recognising dilemmas, moving on to embrace change, opposing subjugation, and finally achieving freedom.

The main objectives of the research are:

- to understand the basic commonalities of feminine identity with a comparative evaluation of both RK Narayanan and Mulk Raj Anand
- to identify possible areas of differences between the two authors when dealing with the subject of Patriarchal Society and its variable impact on feminine identity

### III. METHODS

The present study is conducted based on the novels of Mulk Raj Anand and R.K. Narayan where the women characters are portrayed through the discussion of the patriarchy in Indian society. As discussed in the earlier section, both the authors have given subtle explanations of how patriarchal standards mould and deform feminine identity. In their writing, women frequently try to overcome cultural restrictions in search of self-discovery, independence, and autonomy. While criticising the effects of patriarchal society on women's life, Narayan and Anand also show moments of empowerment, resiliency, and resistance.

#### A. *Research Philosophy*

The process of pragmatism research philosophy is chosen here in the present research as it enables the researcher to choose the philosophy as per the research problem (Kothari, 2004). The same allows the researcher to understand the aspect of feminine character reconstruction from different angles and the influence of patriarchal society on it.

#### B. *Research Approach*

The study employs a qualitative approach. The collection of the data from the different novels like the dark room, the old woman and the cow, guide, and others are described qualitatively in order to portray the typical influence of patriarchal society on the women and their liberty.

#### C. *Sources of Data*

The data are collected from both primary and secondary sources. The collection of the different novels in the present study is done based on the central characters of the same where it has been a woman. As an example, the character of Savitri in the dark room has been the central character of the novel who has faced the dominant maltreatment by her husband. The same has been followed in the selection of novels of both the authors.

#### D. *Data Analysis Method*

The study is done based on the portrait of the female characters in these novels and the influence of the patriarchal society on their reconstruction. The analysis is employed through the qualitative descriptive method.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### A. *Perspective on Patriarchal Society and Feminism in Novels by Two Writers*

Colonial power and the rise of the capitalist economy were mainly led by males in ancient India, as portrayed in "The Guide" by R. K. Narayanan, which had a tremendous impact on the lives of women. In the pre-colonial era, indigenous males and females had different roles in society but those roles were valuable. A patriarchal society is a society where the supreme authority lies at the hand of males in a family or society (Saikia, 2020). A hierarchical and hegemonic relationship is built between males and females over time. Women in a patriarchal family and society are observed as

sexual objects their desire, feelings, and wishes are not valued significantly. In “The Guide”, it is found that women characters are submissive and they give themselves away to be a mere puppet at the hand of males who hold the authority. The submission of women is the act responsible for empowering the existing system of patriarchal dominance: “My daughter is married to my own sister’s son, and so there is no problem. I often visit my sister and also my daughter, and so no one minds it”.

These lines are conversations between Raju and a villager. The villager’s daughter is married to the man’s nephew who empowers the man to visit his sister’s home frequently. Patriarchal society vests the authority to decide the fate of girls with the father figures of the family and the female guardians and the daughter herself has no say in it.

The emergence of the post-modern era embraces convergent ideologies and intertextual references. Writers and critics have argued for an improved and new approach to feminism for confronting patriarchal power in several cultural domains. “The Dark Room” by R. K. Narayanan was first published in Great Britain in 1938. Unlike “The Guide” the author has created this novel from a feminist perspective (Goel, 2023). The worthlessness of existence and utter helplessness is experienced by the main protagonist of the novel, Savitri. The women in the novel are subjected to betrayal, love, kindness, and sorrow. She is always controlled by her husband, the personification of a patriarchal society. Ramani, the husband of Savitri is a womaniser and does not pay any heed to the words of his wife.

“Untouchable” by Mulk Raj Anand is another book which is constructed on the same theme, the exploitation and suffering of women in society at the hand of patriarchy. Critics have argued that Mulk Raj Anand cannot get out of gender roles and biases prescribed by society (Jarín & Zahin, 2023). In his book, the reader realises the theory of gender performativity in which gender and gender roles are delineated through their social performance. Here, the author portrays the character of Bakha as masculine and the character of Sohini as feminine. It is found that the feminine traits of Sohini are described from a sexual perspective. Anand has been criticised for objectifying Sohini rather than casting her as an agentive being:

She had a delicate slim body, not lean bodied like other native untouchable girls. She had a very graceful physique with well-rounded hips and curved waist as just as like as the arch of the hunter. Her globular breast jerked slightly because of the lack of bodice. And that lacking made her physical appearance more alluring than other girls with her transparent muslin shirt. (Anand, 1935, p. 7)

The author strives to narrate the caste-based, class-bound, and gendered subalternity of subaltern Indian people including men, women, and children. His other creation, “Two Leaves and a Bud” throws light on gendered, classed, and coloured subalternity (Murkute, 2021). This novel demonstrates sociocultural hypocrisy rampant in several aspects of society. The coolie woman has faced several problems at the hands of British colonialists. The plantation masters molest and exploit coolie women regardless of their age. The women are sexually exploited at the hand of their masters: “The women workers are more efficient, Reggie assured himself, quite insensitive to the undercurrents of emotion he had let loose in their souls. He favored them almost involuntarily, hoping to establish a relationship of informal intimacy to facilitate...”. (Murkute, 2021, p. 29)

#### B. *The Writing Style Used by Anand and Narayan*

Anand’s writing style is committed to exposing injustice and justice in contemporary Indian society. His writing has touched on several crucial themes such as the distress of suppressed lower casts, economic exploitation, and the plight of women. Photographic description and presentation of his writing style make his themes universally appealing. His “Two Leaves and a Bud” and “Untouchable” are not merely Indian literary pieces, but rather have become universal for their character portrayal. The writer has dealt with the loss of identity for his characters and shown how the characters thrive to regain their existence through prolonged struggle.

“Two Leaves and a Bud” is written on the ground of contemporary social realism which enlightens the inhuman behaviour committed to the labour class and women. The plantation workers expose psychological stigma for surviving over-exploitation. Anand’s writing also touches on nature and scenic descriptions of the tea garden at Assam (Khasa, 2023).

The morning mist had risen over the valley and evaporated with the dazzling burst of sunlight. The air was still under the clear even sky. The welter of leafage was tense beneath the world’s hollow cup. There was a concentrated lull in the slow heart of the day, as if India missed a heartbeat of the day, in the march of time.

Contradictorily, R. K. Narayan emphasises the double narration technique in his creation, “The Guide”. Narayan looks at human life with a sense of realistic humour. Narayan has used a flash-back narrative technique in “The Guide” on purpose. The symbolism used by Narayan adds a new dimension to his narrative style (Siddiqui, 2019). The narrator Raju narrates his past and figures out feeling from memory. Such a flash-back technique arouses the interest and curiosity of the reader. The story frequently shifts back and forth between the first and third-person narrative techniques.

Narayan’s treatment of time in “The Dark Room” demonstrates a deviation from the former novels of the author. In this writing, time moves on an impressively straight scale and the characters propel time as dreams, memories, and recollections. Time goes forth and reverses and presents a full view of the protagonist. Till the third chapter of “The Dark Room”, the writer has depicted the occurrences of an average day for the protagonist. Apart from that, Narayan has used similes in this novel. Savitri finds similarities between herself and the junk stored in the darkroom of the house (Adhikary, 2020). The room is dark and so is the life of Savitri because there is no light waiting for her at the end of the tunnel.

### C. *Feminine Character Development by Two Writers*

“The dark room” is a special novel because it deals with women's worries and domestic violence in Indian marital institutions. Narayan has made Savitri, the main female protagonist struggling, who tries hard to gain her own freedom and identity (Madhavaiah, 2022). In Savitri's words, “Men are impetuous. One moment they are all in temper and the next all kindness. Men have to bear many worries and burdens, and you must overlook it if they are sometimes unreasonable.”

These lines show the perspective of men at that time. The character development of Savitri raises respect for the character in the mind of the audience. Savitri chastises her husband Ramani for committing an extra-marital affair by calling him impure and dirty. Another work of Narayan, “the guide” is also a masterpiece from the point of view of female characterisation. In this novel, the main character Raju finds comfort in the presence of his mother. Raju's mother, as a typical Indian woman, is careful of daily expenses and rebukes her husband for wasting money on horses (Eve, 2021). Another female character is Rosie who is full of aesthetic traits and loves dancing. Both the characters continue their journey simultaneously with the male characters. Though they are shadowed by their husbands and sons, these female characters contribute to the plot development of the writing of Narayan.

In “untouchable” of Anand, women characters are shown as silences in a subaltern society. A woman does not belong to any specific cast, rather belongs to the cast of the make who touches her. Gulabo is a powerful woman from a higher rank among Harijan women because she was the mistress of a higher-caste man once. Another character, Sohini gets humiliated by her father for neglecting her household work. Through the distress and molestation of Sohini, the writer lashes at the hypocrisy of the class system in society and the notion of untouchability (Jarín & Zahin, 2023). Women are marginalised by a patriarchal society. Anand has witnessed the time when Indian society noted women as subordinate (Shende, 2022). He deliberately chooses women characters from dirt and soil because he wanted to empower the exploited females at the hand of patriarchy. These characters strive to gain dignity and recognition but faced with agonising exclusion and socio-economic segregation.

### D. *Juxtaposition of Patriarchal Tone and Feminism in the Works of Two Writers*

The discussions that have been presented above have clearly suggested that both R. K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand have been able to portray the feminine gender in an appropriate manner. In the opinions of Shende (2022), the works of Indian literature have seen evolution as the tone of feminism. This is one of the major ideas that have been portrayed in the study here, and the novels of both the writers have indicated the same. There is a clear juxtaposition of the patriarchal tone and feminism in the works of both the writers. It has been made clear that both the writers in the novels have made use of a clear juxtaposition of the patriarchal tone, as most of the narrators of the stories are male. These individuals highlight the female aspects of life, which is one of the most important areas. Both the authors have highlighted the fact that womanhood needs to be nurtured and appropriate identity of the womankind must be created to ensure that the society is being prepared in the correct direction.

The male characters of the various novels of both the authors are the main narrators of the story. However, the stories effectively portray the overall growth and transformation of women in the novels. This is one of the most noted features of the authors and this is the main theme in the novels of both R. K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand. It must be noted in the writings of both the writers that the evolution and transformation of women has taken a major place (Alam, 2021). In the case of R. K. Narayan, the novels of the author can be seen as a feminist tract, which traces the journey of a woman (Alam, 2021). This journey refers to the journey of a woman who is dependent on her male counterparts or guardians, and her transformation into a free woman, who is independent and gains complete power over her life. Although this is said from the point of view of a man, it is clearly the feminist thoughts and ideas of the author and the narrator that are being portrayed through these lines. Therefore, it can be seen that the juxtaposition is clear and evident in the works of R. K. Narayan.

Mulk Raj Anand, on the other hand, takes a similar approach, when it comes to the representation of women and womankind. As represented in his works, the representation of the womankind is extremely bold and appropriate. The miseries of women across India and the world have been effectively portrayed through the voice of a male narrator. This is indicative of the expertise of the author, who through the juxtaposition of a patriarchal tone in his works, represent feminist identities and female issues (Shende, 2022). The plight of women who were tortured by unsympathetic husbands, in-laws and the society are clearly represented in the works of this author. However, the thing that makes these novels most interesting is the tone of the narrator. The narrator, who is a male himself, shows these incidents and identifies with them. Therefore, it is clear that the author makes use of the male characters to portray the plight of women that is being largely generated by the male members of the family and the society. Therefore, this can be seen as a major issue that must be considered and the novels have effectively portrayed the same.

It can be noted here that both the authors have highlighted the grit and the strengths of women, who, despite being largely exploited by their male counterparts, and the society, struggle to gain their independence. In the opinions of Alam (2021), the position of women in the society has been effectively portrayed in the novels of both current and past authors of India. R. K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand are two major authors who have portrayed the same in the novels. However, what separates them from the others in the lot is the style of their narration. The main aspect of both these authors is the fact that male narrators demonstrate the plight of women and their journey from being immature to free

and independent women. The journey from being depleted and subjugated in the society to gaining prominence and complete freedom in their lives is effectively portrait from the perspective of a man. This is clearly one of the major and unique aspects associated with these novels, and the overall quality of representation of womankind in the novel is enhanced as a result of the same.

Therefore, it is clear that in the novels of both the authors, the juxtaposition of masculine tone and feminine identity has been effectively created and used. The main thing that can be associated with his novels that have been mentioned above is the fact that they all trace the journey of a woman from being subjugated to being free (Alam, 2021). This is the most important and basic underlying tone of these novels, which ensures the impact of the novels is also greater. Therefore, it can be stated that the impact of the novels has been largely enhanced by making use of the most appropriate narration and representation. Further, without any doubt, these novelists have shown that they have a strictly feminist nature, even though not directly, but indirectly. This suggests the fact that the novels that are being studied here, or having an underlying tone of feminism, which appeals to the overall female gender.

Both novelists in their works have made use of masculine, portrayals and male perspectives to portray the feminist aspects. It is due to this subtle intermixing and juxtaposition of male thoughts with female representations that makes these authors and their works an instant hit (Shende, 2022). Besides, they have indicated the fact that the woman kind in India is largely facing atrocities and issues, and yet they are succeeding in their endeavours and challenges that they are facing or appropriately being handled by them.

## V. CONCLUSION

The study here has effectively highlighted the nature of the patriarchal society in India. The works of the authors who are being considered here for the study shed light on the fact that Indian society is strongly patriarchal in nature. Women in the society have been represented as inferior and largely subjugate its community. This is the core manner in which women characters of the novels of these writers have been portrayed initially. Largely owing to the patriarchal nature of the society, it has been highlighted and underpinned in the study here that women have to suffer immensely and the men and have to face daily torments and issues. Men on the other hand, have the upper hand in the day to day lives, and largely impact the lives of women. It has been shown that initially, women were largely subjugated and controlled by men. Nevertheless, the evolution of women and their journey from being subjugated to being free have been portrayed effectively in the stories of both the authors.

Besides, both these authors have been effectively portraying the plight of women in the society of India. The kind of torture that individual women have had to face from there and sympathetic husbands and her in-laws has been effectively portrayed in the works of Mulk Raj Anand. Further, the works of R. K. Narayan has highlighted the issues that women have to face as a result of them being completely controlled by their male counterparts. The quotations that have been placed above have highlighted the fact that the women had no decision-making powers of their own and had to follow the orders of their male counterparts. In this regard, the authors have highlighted that despite such atrocities and subjugation, the women are able to break through the shackles and succeed in their lives. This is a portrayal of the grit and strength of womankind, which shows that the mean tone of the stories is largely feminist in nature. They completely portray the feminist nature and the feminist notion of freedom of women.

Finally, one of the main themes that have been understood from the narration above is the fact that a juxtaposition of male perspectives and feminine identities are a crucial part of the overall stories of both these authors. These authors make use of male narrators to identify and highlight the plight of women and the issues that are being faced by the feminine gender. Therefore, an appropriate phone is set, which aligns with the requirements of the leaders. This creates a greater impact as well, which is largely a necessity in the storyline. Therefore, through their works, the feminist ideals, and effectively portrayed, as women are shown as representatives of strength and validity, who have the ability to stand against all kinds of cruelty and yet evolve.

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