



# A STUDY OF THE MARGINALIZATION IN THE NOVEL A SITUATION IN NEW DELHI WRITTEN BY NAYANTARA SAHGAL

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## ❖ ABSTRACT:

Nayantara Sahgal, explore that woman is born as free as man, but she is banned to remain free for long. In fact, as feminists says, the woman is made for the society. In a feministic views Nayantara Sahgal recognizes that her obligation is that of advocating the freedom of women. In her novels she critically described contemporary social realities, of women's exploitation, correction and extortion. She introduces her theme of the quest for freedom through her protagonists.

❖ **KEY WORDS:** Marginalization, Nayantara Sahgal, Gender Discrimination, human relationship, abuse, feminism.

## ❖ INTRODUCTION:

Human beings are social animals. They live in society. In their daily routine life, they interact with each other. They observes the social life continuously and finds out some people are less important and neglected from the society means some people are marginalized from the society. This aspect plays important role in present research paper. India is a country where women are given the status of a goddess. However the problems they have to face just show the opposite of the concept. One hand they worship them as goddesses and on the other, they abuse them endlessly and consider them inferior. Indian women always had some problems. Women are insecure in daily routine life by many ways such as – Female foeticide, gender discrimination, harassment, rape cases, growth in domestic violence, sexual abuse, dowry related harassment, gender pay gap etc. Present research works on marginalization in the novels of Nayantara Sahgal.

## ❖ OBJECTIVES:

Objectives of the present study can be stated as below:

- 1) To focus on the elements of marginalization in the novel A Situation in New Delhi written by Nayantara Sahgal.
- 2) To discuss questions related to women protagonists regarding gender discrimination, structure of the society, marriage predicament, failure and disillusion of marriage, problem of divorce, unusual sexuality and Identity crisis.
- 3) To explore the nature of female characters.
- 4) To bring out the clarity in conceptions concerned to human relationship.

- 5) To find out the impact of social structure on female life and suggest some remedies for it.
- 6) To search different aspects of marginalization.
- 7) To study social injustice towards women portrayed in the novels of Nayantara Sahgal.

### ❖ LIFE SKETCH OF NAYANTARA SAHGAL:

Nayantara Sahgal was born on 10 May 1927. She is an Indian writer who writes in English. She is a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family. With her mother Vijayalaxmi Pandit as India's First Ambassador to the United Nations, her uncle Jawaharlal Nehru as India's First Prime Minister and her first cousin Indira Gandhi as India's Third but First women Prime Minister, so it is not surprising that politics and history inspire and underlie much of her writing.

Nayantara Sahgal was awarded in 1986. The "Sahitya Akadami Award" for her English novel "Rich Like Us" (1985). She received the Sinclair prize (Britain) for fiction in 1985 and commonwealth writers award (Eurasia) in 1987. She was also a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson international centre for scholars', Washington from 1981 to 1982.

Nayantara Shagal is not only a novelist of repute but also a journalist by profession. She wrote nine novels, two autobiographies, published number of articles and two other books.

### ❖ CONCEPT OF MARGINALIZATION:

The term marginalization was first used in France. Marginalization is the act related to someone's unimportant or powerless position, someone is considered as scrawled, small and practically unreadable. Marginalization is closely connected with race, gender, age and other protected aspects of social identity. At some times someone is ignored and pushed to the outside of his/her group or society. There is not a single part of the word where marginalization has not been witnessed. Marginalization can affect well being at individual, mental, emotional and physical level. Marginalized person feels full of anger, fear, depression, anxiety, sadness and stress. It is used across disciplines including Education, Sociology, Psychology, Political science and Economics.

### ❖ MARGINALIZATION IN 'A SITUATION IN NEW DELHI':

Nayantara Sahgal, explore that woman is born as free as man, but she is banned to remain free for long. In fact, as feminists says, the woman is made for the society. In a feministic views Nayantara Sahgal recognizes that her obligation is that of advocating the freedom of women. In her novels she critically described contemporary social realities, of women's exploitation, correction and extortion. She introduces her theme of the quest for freedom through her protagonists.

In A situation in New Delhi, Mrs. Sahgal describes a different kind of incompatibility through the delineation of the relationship between Usman Ali, the vice-chancellor of Delhi University and his wife Nadira. Usman needs a friendship with the body as well as mind of a woman. But unfortunately Nadira is not with him in his friendship and loyalties, in the passions of his mind and, heart, in central concern. He feels that she is durable as a "mistress material", but problematic as a wife. For him, she becomes a mere body without a mind. As Nadira is a voluptuous and languorous woman who longs only for the physical side of the marriage she becomes a mere body without a mind for Usman.

The relationship between Usman and Nadira follows almost a similar pattern with one basic difference. Unlike Uma and Leela in This Time of Morning, Nadira is in love with her husband and wants to reach him, and the failure of their relationship is not due to any contrary pulls but to the limitations of their individual natures. But men do not have proper understanding of women. Nadira is both beautiful and desirable but, Usman's need is for a different kind of woman, one with intelligence and with receptivity to ideas. Nadira is more concerned with the physical side of marriage than with the exchange of ideas. Usman, however, had always gone beyond physical relationship. Usman blames himself for his failure in reaching his wife. Their relationship is saved by just one gesture of Nadira that she has the will to understand, even if understanding wasn't Yet there. This will, to understand had earlier saved Sanad and Kusum's relationship as also Jit and Mara's. Young women in Sahgal's fictional world are the helpless victims of the taboo-ridden, conventional society. Instead of asserting themselves or fighting against the odds, some of them easily accept the role traditionally offered to them, while some others opt for death as the ultimate solution to the man-made problems.

Madhu, a girl student in A situation in New Delhi after being raped by a group of university students in the Registrar's office, finds no sympathy from her parents or from the society, and ultimately chooses to burn herself to death. When she is hospitalized after the rape, she cries in agony but the nurse puts her hand on her mouth to stop her, the gestures becomes symbolic of the authoritarian forces trying to stop the cries of innocent sufferers. The

word rape is the most awful word in women's life. When a girl is raped she feels ashamed as she is helpless and unable to protect her own self. Through the incident of rape, Sahgal's purpose is not merely to depict the hooliganism and disorder in the educational institutions, but to show that a woman in a patriarchal set up has no place to go to once she is stigmatized. This incident is just an example of the reality of women's position in the society. In our social setup, the parents of a girl do not act boldly and firmly out of fear of the society. Instead of bringing the guilty ones to law for punishment, they prefer to suppress the matter because they know all too well the hypocrisies of the society. Conforming to the social ways, they keep their daughters secure in the four walls of their house till they are handed over to their rightful masters.

In Devi, Mrs. Sahgal portrays a completely different kind of a character. Usman, one of the lovers of Devi, whose explorations of the past had included a study of the Indian woman from Vedic times, never knew quite how to classify Devi. She has not completely involved herself either in the matrimonial alliance with Ishwar or in the extra-marital affairs with Usman and Michael. As a popular figure in the country she is the sister of the prime minister- she cannot openly defy the traditional mould. The only commitment of her is the sense of duty that she has to her brother, Shivraj. She thinks that she is unable to live with herself as she and her brother Shivraj are so much flesh of each other's flesh, their very souls mixed. The other men with whom she has a close relationship, Michael and Usman, are simply used by her for her personal survival. Devi is an extraordinary woman for whom commitment is possible only with a man of great ideals, character and originality no doubt; she is also a human being who is in need of love and sex. But they are next only to the duty to her brother. Such a bold and strong woman is rare in the contemporary social set-up. Modern and liberal in outlook, Sahgal believes in new humanism and a new morality, according to which woman is not to be taken as a sex object and glamour girl, fed of fake dreams of perpetual youth, lulled into a passive role that requires no individual identity, but as man's equal and honoured partner. In Sahgal one can easily discern a happy blend of two sensitivities-the sensitivity of an artist and the sensitivity of a humanist. As a humanist, she is for unfettered freedom and urges us to realize that human personality is a precious, hard-won achievement, worthy of nurture, irrespective of sex. She regrets that in this atomic age when monumental problems have been resolved by science and research, the human relationship still seems largely unresearched. She, therefore, pleads for the new marital morality based on mutual trust, consideration, generosity, and absence of pretence, selfishness and self-centeredness. Her artistic vision is intensely moral with profound respect for the affirmative values of life.

### ❖ CONCLUSION:

Identify the some elements of Marginalization in the novel A Situation in New Delhi in female characters such as Nadura, Madhu & Devi. In comparison between man and women – Women character's are little bit suppressed or less important.

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