REVIEW OF LITERATURE:-

In the research Article, “Women in the Novels of Shashi Deshpande : An Introduction” the author Bala Suman discusses the typical stories of Indian women in search of identity in a patriarchal world. Women’s quest for identity is the central theme of all the novels written by shashi Deshpande. According to the author after a great deal of suffering and self introspection, the women come to terms with their present with an understanding and acceptance of their past and are ready now to march ahead with new acceptance of life.¹

Dr. Barche G.D intellectually points out the comparisons and similarities between Indu the woman character in shashi Deshpande’s famous novel “Roots and Shadows” and the legendary figure Sisyphus in his Research Paper “Indu : Another Sisyphus in Roots and Shadows,” Indu shares the fate of Sisyphus . The punishment of rolling a big stone up a steep hill is compared to the punishment of Indu. Her crime is the revelation of long hidden inner world of women in general and Indian women in particular.²

The book, “Feminist English Literature” is a volume containing articles on feminist theory, the emerging self of women in Indian English fiction and general appraisal of women novelists as regards their portrayal of the women’s question. The anthology provides a broad spectrum of feminist English literature with in-depth analysis of the works of Indian women novelists.³

The author in her article entitled as “Indian womanhood : Fight for freedom in Roots and shadows” talks about the exploration of psychic and moral dilemmas and repercussions of the situation in women characters trying to achieve a new harmony of relationship with themselves and their surroundings in the novels of Indian women novelists. The author says that the novel ‘Roots and shadows’ deals with a woman’s attempt to assert her individuality and realize her freedom.⁴

In the Research Article “Image of Indian married woman in Shobha De’s Socialite Evenings” the author concentrates on Karuna, the protagonist of the novel as self confident and potential woman striving to get total freedom from man and to change the social concept of woman . The author sees that De believes in the power of women, new woman full of confidence looking forward hopefully for a satisfied free life. The article is remarkable for bringing out Karuna, the central figure of the novel as a modern Indian married woman emerging with her new identity and changing image.⁵
The book entitled as “Indian writing in English : Critical perspectives’ edited by the above authors consists of essays by distinguished academics on variety of topics covering Indian writing in English. The twenty research articles throw flood of light on Indian aspects including women and feminism as well a diaspora. The book also introduces the contemporary debates comprising the vast aspects of the canon.  

The author presents sufferings of Shobha De’s women in the research paper, “women in Socialite Evenings”. De’s women suffer in an androgynous world for they do not cherish genuine passions but only plastic passions. All the women cast off the conventional sense of morality, the old, the tired and repressive sexual move and revel in the erotic celebration of the body. Shobha De has tried her best to express the inner urge of Indian women whether rural or urban in their best possible way. As a feminist writer, De gives her attention to woman issues in her novel giving them a new approach. The novel ‘Socialite Evenings’ gives us the picture of marginalization of Indian women at the hands of their husbands. 

In his research article “Shashi Deshpande’s Heroines prisoners by choice?” A. G. Khan opines that in the process of introspection and antagonism Shashi Deshpande’s heroines fail to come to terms with reality and are maladjusted where as most of the males are well adjusted. He chose the novels, “The Dark Holds No Terrors”, “Roots and shawods” and “The Binding Vine” for the analysis. He concerns with problems that agitate women. Shashi Deshpande presents case studies in which heroines probe their own selves to find how wrong had been their assessment of the self and how “stupid and silly martyrs” they had been by refusing to become normal. 

The Research article, “The corrupt Urban Culture in Shobha De’s Sisters” presents the novel “Sisters” as a typical Indian feminist novel recording the suffering of urban middle class women in a patriarchal set up. It is a story of corrupt urban culture where human relationship has lost it all values. It is also a tale about emotional bond between two sisters, Mallika and Alisha. Shobha De successfully depicts evils of corrupt urban culture and salvation of main characters. It is not a salvation or an escape, but an acceptance of reality. 

The author Nivedita Maitra says the woman novelist Shobha De belongs to the side of the Anti feminists in her article, “Anti - feminism : A study of the women characters in Starry Nights.” The author has tried to analyze Shobha De’s novel “Starry Nights” within the parameters of feminist and anti feminist views. The women characters of the novel labeled Shobha De “The High Priestess of Gossip and Innuendo” “Bodice Ripper”, “The soft porn Star”.
Yet she is basically anti feminists who does let her women characters develop general human capabilities. The women characters like Malini and Rita has been able to portray a very vivid picture of inequality between men and women.\textsuperscript{10}

The Research Article “Subverting Phallogocentrism feminine Discourse in Roots and Shadows” presents the new woman who speaks, instead of hearing through her body, through her consciousness and through her pen. Women’s creation is phallic action that calls for woman’s recovery of loss. The subversion of the political system of authority gives way to marginalized female culture. The writing in the novel by Shashi Deshpande allows the subversive preexistence of a pure discourse to deconstruct the traditional image of the signifier at the textual., linguistic and psychological level and at the patriarchal authority at the cultural level.\textsuperscript{11}

The author of the Research Article “Problematising feministic Discourse : A post feminist critique of The Dark Holds No Terrors” compares Sarita, the present woman with Leda the mythical woman. Despite this similarity there is a vast gap in viewing the two authors in that Leda’s being overpowered by Zeus and its consequence and Sarita’s overpowered by her husband. The author has analyzed the woman character, Sarita in the light of feministic aspects.\textsuperscript{12}

The author observes Jaya the woman character in the novel. “That long silence” by Shashi Deshpande in the light of exigencies of life presented themselves in the form of traumatic events in his research article, “ The Trauma of a House wife : Shashi Deshpande’s That Long Silence”. Jaya’s psychic has not been well-equipped to meet the exigencies. The author further says that as a result, the flood gates of anxiety have been suddenly opened and at this psychological moment irrationality qualified her response to the situation.\textsuperscript{13}

The present book, “Indian English Women’s Fiction : A study of marriage, career and divorce traces the background of Indian English women’s fiction from the late 19th century novels from Toru Dutt to the emerging novelists like Manju Kapur. The author has discussed the issues of marriage, career and divorce. The book attempts to delve into the life of “educated” women and traces the answers.\textsuperscript{14}

The book, “Three Great Indian Women Novelists Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Bharati Mukherjee” attempts to study the women characters in the novels written by the three women novelists. The women characters are now no longer objects but become protagonists. Though writing in the same period, these three women novelists exhibit marked contracts too,
along with their similarities. They appeared on the scene with an exceptional ability to penetrate into the consciousness of their characters.\(^\text{15}\)

Palekar Shalmalee in the research paper “Gender, feminism and Postcoloniality: A Reading of Shashi Deshpande’s Novels” has attempted to demonstrate the variety of Indian positions/representations in the intersection of gender and postcolonial readings, in the context of Deshpande’s work. The author also argues that Deshpande is translating aspects of feminism into a particular Indian context her work also symptomatic of an inbuilt bias in the study of Indian writing and post-colonial literatures that continues to privilege the narrow spectrum of Anglophone expression.\(^\text{16}\)

The paper entitled, “Tearing the Veil: The Dark Holds No Terrors” interprets Shashi Deshpande’s Novel, “The Dark Holds No Terrors” from the feminist point of view keeping the women characters before the eyes. The paper not only throws light upon the basic features of feminism, both western and Indian but also on the analysis of the plot at the novel including characters and situations. The author analyzes the novel that it emerges matriarchy as a powerful structure capable of covering the ever-widening chasm in male-female relationship.\(^\text{17}\)

The book, “Indian women Novelists: Critical Discourses” Covers a unique collection of thirty scholarly papers analyzing the major Indian women novelists. In this book one can explore the interesting history of Indian writing in English and also experience its various facets expressed by the novelists.\(^\text{18}\)

In her research article, “The Theme of Marriage and selfwood in Roots and Shadows” the author Ujwala Patil portrays the women characters Indu, Saru and Jaya as sensitive and intelligent women. They are modern, an autonomous self in a society largely conventional in its outlook. The women struggle to give shape and content to their individual existence in a sexiest society. The author has handled the theme of identity crisis faced by Indu, the intelligent and sensitive married protagonist of the novel ‘Roots and Shadows’ in this article.\(^\text{19}\)

The research Article, “The Dark Holds No Terrors: A call for confrontation” throws light upon how the novel “The Dark Holds No Terrors” is totally different as it explores the man’s unquestional superiority and the woman being a martyr and a paragon at all virtues. It also talks about the other Indian novels dealing with woman’s issues like patience, devotion and abject acceptance of whatever is meted out to her.\(^\text{20}\)
The book, “New Lights on Indian Women Novelists in English” edited by Amarnath Prasad is a modest attempt to evaluate some of the major women novelists. The book contains many scholarly papers highlighting different aspects of issues of women as well as other Indian issues. The authors discussed are Ruth Prawar Jhabwala, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Rama Mehta, Shobha De etc. The book has proved a great asset to the teachers, scholars and students.21

The part II of the book, “New Lights on Indian Women Novelists” edited by Amarnath Prasad throws light upon the women issues in the modern period. The scholars have highlighted truthful portrayal of women in conservative and patriarchal society, their critical comments on gender discrimination and above all their strong sense of feminism. It contains more than twenty scholarly articles contributed by well-known scholars hailing from different parts of India.22

In the Research Article, “Intricate Relationships between the three Generations in Shashi Deshpande’s A Matter of Time”, the author Ashwini Purde says that Shashi Deshpande’s novels generally center on the family relationships. Everybody has to live within relationships. Her novel “Matter of Time” explores the intricate relationships within an extended family, encompassing three generations of men and women. She insists upon a space for women. Man’s failure or success is closely linked with a woman’s degeneration and regeneration.23

The research article, “Self-Assertion of Woman: Shashi Deshpande’s Roots and Shadows” attempts to focus on self-assertion and loneliness of woman. The author tries to prove that woman in India and in other societies has been seeking an identity. In trying to carve out a place for herself, the woman has become more and more self-assertive and cognitive of her position and rights. The woman character, Jaya, is analyzed in this light.24

The book, “English Novelist of India: Critical Perspectives” is on the woman issues in the major novels of Indian English Novelists. The search for identity in the male-dominated society, empowerment and self-independence, craving for existence, capability to perform gigantic responsibilities comparing to the men and new emergence of feminism are highlighted referring to the Indian English woman novelists.25

The research article, “Indian woman at the Cross Roads: A study of Shashi Deshpande’s Heroines” tries to attempt to reflect on the three major novels of Shashi Deshpande trying to prove the point that Indian Feminism as reflected in the Indian Fiction is a unique phenomenon
that has to be valued on its own scale and should not be weighed against the scale of the western feminist literature. The author basically reflects on the problems and concerns of the middle class Indian woman.

The author presents positive sides of women protagonist in the novels of Shashi Deshpande in the article entitled as “Shashi Deshpande’s Women Protagonists: Balancing Family and Career”. The author says that a women’s commitment to career reflects her desire to fulfill her own potential. All the women protagonists of Shashi Deshpande succeed in constructing a self through individual professional achievement.

The book, “The Image of Women in the Novels of Shashi Deshpande”, studies the image of women as depicted in Shashi Deshpande’s novels. The author says that society characterizes women as ideally warm, gentle, dependent and submissive. Family life and work patterns convey the idea that women should be subordinate to and dependent on man. The study concentrates on the images to contemporary society and analyses the image of woman throughout the historical changes.

The author talks about mother-daughter relationship with special reference to the novels, “The Dark Holds No Terrors” by Shashi Deshpande in her research article”, Mother-Daughter Relationship in the Novels of Shashi Deshpande. The relationship is based on gender bias and lovelessness.

The research article, “The Self as Contestation in Roots and Shadows” tries to say that the narrative mooring of Shashi Deshpande’s “Roots and Shadows” lies in the family to be more precise, in the familial politics of inheritance and succession after the death of family matriarch. The author presents that the novel is the representation of third world women’s individual subjectivity as undifferentiated victims of culture and poverty.

G. Dominic Savio in his research article “A Woman’s Heritage of Commonwealth: A Study of The Dark Holds No Terrors.” presents Shashi Deshpande, a famous woman novelist, as an outstanding novelist highlighting the problems encountered by the Indian woman caught between the native Indian and invading western culture. Sara, the woman protagonist of the novel, “The Dark Holds No Terrors” is analyzed in this light. she searches for herself.

The research paper “The Problem of Marriage and Affirmation of Self in Roots and Shadows” attempt’s to probe into the problem of marriage through Indu, the protagonist and her cousin Mini where one enjoys the freedom of marriage and the other accepts the traditional
marriage at the same time, Indu’s finding her roots in the home and with her husband discovering the meaning of life in her journey to individuation.32

The research article, “Feminism in Shobha De’s Socialite Evenings” probes into quest for feminine identify by discussing the feminism with special reference to Shobha De’s novel, “Socialite Evenings.” It focuses on woman’s struggle for recognition and survival and made them realize that the time has come when they should stop suffering silently in helplessness. The author says that Shobha’s “Socialite Evenings” presents aesthetics of feminism and emancipation of women.33

The present book, “Shashi Deshpande’s novels: A feminist Study” seeks to study the feminist perspectives in Shashi Deshpande’s novels. It reveals Deshpande’s sincerity and ability in voicing the concerns of the urban educated middle class woman. her sensitive heroines are fully conscious of being victims of gross gender discrimination prevalent in conservative male dominated society.34

The author Anita Sing proposes to examine two novels of Shashi Deshpande in her article “A Voice after the Long Silence: A Study of Roots and Shadows and That Long Silence”. She says that the women protagonists in these novels achieve “personhood”, yet do not negate the family or the society. One finds through these novels Shashi Deshpande defines women as a subject in her own right. Both Indu and Jaya strive for autonomy reading their immense potentialities and self actualization.35

The book, “Indian Women Novelists: A Feminist Psychological Study” studies a gynocritical strategy to examine the six novels by contemporary Indian women novelists including Shashi Deshpande and Shobha De. The aim seems to focus on women’s experiences as women in the contemporary Indian society which is in a transitional phase holding on to the traditional views. Efforts are made to record the emerging female voices using the tenets of the new women centered psychologists, which suit the Indian cultural context.36

In the book, “Women in the Novels of Shashi Deshpande” there is an attempt to study Shashi Deshpande’s women protagonists with a view to understand and appreciate their trails and tribulations under the impact of conflicting influence of tradition and modernity and to critically analyze their response to the emerging situation in life so as to fit themselves in the contemporary society.37
In her book, “Man-Woman Relationship in Indian Fiction” the author Seema Sunil discusses a mirror image of the changing roles and man woman relationship in Indian fiction. The study reveals that man-woman relationship is passing through a conflict in roles and values. The author has chosen Shashi Deshpande, Nayantara sahgal, R.W. Desai ,Bharati Mukherjee, Shobha De for this study because they have treated the subject most intensely and extensively.38

The book, “Contemporary Indian women Novelists in English” edited by Indu swami is a fine collection of scholarly research article covering the different themes handled by the women novelists in their novels. Search for Identity, feminism, traditionalism in modernism, women’s voices are some of the themes discussed by the authors.39

In the article, “Gender Indentity and Innerspace in the Dark Holds No Terrors” the author has dealt with the concept of male-female polarity regarding social, psychological and biological framework in the novel, “Dark Holds No Terrors” written by Shashi Deshpande. The motif of home and family relationships which establishes the ambivalent aspect of female gender construction is the central to the novel.40