



## Empowerment of Women Depicted in Tejavathi's Novels

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### KEYWORDS :

From times immemorial the dominance of (masculine gender) men is bitterly experienced by women in our society. In our day to day newspapers we come across several reports of women and even minor female children are being raped by men. Liberty and equality are not at all found on this sacred Indian land. It is not so easy to find the solutions to the problems being faced by women community. Illiterate females are unable to get clear comprehensions over their problems but educated females are able to find solutions in a better way than illiterate females. Eradication of illiteracy alone is the best weapon for women's empowerment.

In Literature various types of writing are found. Among them writing Novels is a remarkable feature in the literature. So many writers and poets wrote different types of writings dealing with the topic empowerment of women.

Among the distinguished Novelists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Dr. A. Tejavathi occupies an important place. She wrote sixteen novels to her credit. The depiction of empowerment extensively found among her female characters. It is praiseworthy to note that her novels are placed in the Washington library in the U.S.A.

Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1936 to the couple of KappaganthuSubrahmanyaSastri and RajyaLaxamma at Tenali, Tejavathi continued her higher education with encouragement from her husband Late. Sri A. Vittal Rao. She served in Saint Joseph's College of education for women, Guntur teaching to B.Ed and M.Ed students. At present, she is actively playing a leading role with regard to the upliftment of the old Institution "Sri SaradaNiketanam" Oriental College founded by Late. UnnavalaLaxmibaiamma, LaxmiNarayana couple in 1922. She is busily involved in bringing out her husband's and her writings also to the society.

Among the novels "PurvaSadhyaPravarthathey", "Vidhyardhi", "MruthyoramaAmruthangamaya", are the best writings dealing with the topic, women empowerment. The female characters in her novels belong to middle class families and they are seen with an ideal personality they never hope to become a milliner over night. They want to come up step by step to the top of the ladder. Firstly the novel "PurvaSadhyaPravarthathey" is taken up for presentation. Jyothi and Parvathi are the two important characters. Jyothi is bestowed with wisdom and intelligence. In the beginning she thought of marriage to a highly educated man Mohan. Later changing her opinion on Mohan because of his behaviour, she selects Ananda Rao as her life partner who is not equally educated but, excels in Noble qualities.

In the beginning she was unable to get good comprehension over the feelings of her husband. She faced some inconveniences in that village atmospheres. She requests Ananda Rao not to indulge and not to interfere in the educational field. By this her high regard over teachers is found. She not only teaches, stitching of cloth's etc., but also makes the neighbouring women literate to her distant relative Susheela. She repeatedly requests her husband not to play any role in the village politics, vindictive actions, anti-social activities.

Unfortunately Ananda Rao became victim of village politics. Though being instigated by her friend Ramana to kill the accused, she bluntly refuses to kill the criminal by her great noble quality, i.e. for giving the sinner, she succeeds to bring amicable and peaceful atmosphere in the village further, she also succeeds to bring the change in the accused.

The second character is Parvathi, who is the wife of a school teacher. Following the footsteps of her husband and encouraging him to go

on the ideal path. Unfortunately she loses her child and to forget her deep sorrow she concentration education. Gradually she becomes educated and wishes to support her husband financially. When she expressed her of doing a job, before her husband she gets negative reply. Later she convinces her husband to join a job. Strong will power is seen on Parvathi's character. Later listening of criticism of her neighbours, she thinks of stopping her education, but being encouraged by her husband, she continues her education. Again she was disturbed by the behavior of invigilator during the examination time. Later the invigilator comes to know his fault and begs her pardon. Finally she decides to continue her education and becomes educated. At times she fails to face criticism.

The second novel is Vidhyardhi. Jaya Laxmi and Gnanamba are the two important female characters. Jaya Laxmi was born with a silver spoon in her mouth and pretty also. In the beginning being young, she chooses Madhu and loves him she maintains physical and mental relations with Madhu. She refuses her cousin. Atlas she tells her relationship with Madhu to her father, who was bringing a new match for her daughter. It was an unbearable shock to know the real nature of Madhu. Gradually she gains courage and faces the situations with confidence. She finds a small job and supports herself. When Vidhyardhi proposes to bring Madhuby a tricky plan, she refuses to implement it and displays mental maturity. Later she was impressed with the good behavior of Vidhyardhi but Vidhyardhi wants to have Gnanamba as his life partner. Being depressed with the death of Gnanamba Vidhyardhi leads a sorrow full life. Then Jaya Laxmi encourages him to achieve his goal and finally she marries Vidhyardhi. In this Novel Gnanamba is an unforgettable character.

She loses confidence in the God and gets self confidence with her positive attitude; she collects some contributions during the vacation period to bring the dream of her father into reality that is i.e. establishing a school. Further she gives a right shape to the disturbed life of her sister. While walking on the path of achieving goals, she never thinks of love and marriage. She always analyses the issues in a logical manner. She never tries to escape from problems. Her great self confidence, perseverance and courage play a major role to bring success in her life. Vidhyardhi was yielded to these noble qualities and proposed to marry him. At last being convinced by Vidhyardhi she accepts him without any prejudice to her wishes. When Vidhyardhi was surrounded by many problems she encourages in him a right way. While achieving our goals our responsibility should also be full filled she advises Vidhyardhi very often. To follow the right policy, when Hill stones come on the path of a man, he should cleverly find away to miss the dash with those hill stones. Being loaded with over confidence on achieving her goals she neglects her health and causes herself to death. A thoughtful reader is always influenced by the Noble qualities of Gnanamba. But one should know that confidence is good but over confidence leads to trouble.

Dr. Tejavathi's Novel "MruthyormaAmruthangamaya" "Kanthimathi" the main character in Dr. Tejavathi's novel (which won first prize in novel competitions of Andhra Prabha Sachitra Vaara Patrika) is the embodiment of all qualities required for woman's empowerment. She is deceived by her husband marrying another woman and is challenged by him, saying, "you are rejecting me, can you bring up the children without my help?" She, an ordinary house-wife takes up the challenge silently. She not only brings up her children successfully and helps her in-laws also by educating herself and becoming a lecturer. Though she is physically weak, with her courage, confidence, hardwork she sublimates her depression by her strong will-power and extends her helping hand to other hapless old women, who are driven out by her

children, by providing shelter and financial help and also to working woman. Woman's empowerment does not end with only empowering themselves but by empowering the helpless women also. She is the very epitome of selfless service to humanity. She says, in one moment that she is ready to take another life also if her life helps others. She sees god in all human beings.

The height of her character is evident when she forgives her husband and serves her ailing husband and when he is out of danger she silently withdraws herself. She stands as a role model for all women folk.

Most of women characters in Tejavathi's Novels exhibit rare kind of dignity, mental maturity and sympathetic understanding of other women. They do not fight against men, but fight against injustice done to them. Surprisingly they are encouraged and helped certain men. The conclusion that we get from Tejavathi's women characters is men and women have to live in harmony. Her women characters face the problems, they fight against them, and they come out successfully.