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Today I want to give you some idea regarding Shashi Deshpande.

Shashi Deshpande as an Indian Author the widely-acclaimed and an award winning woman novelist, Shashi Deshpande was born in Dharward, Karnataka, India in 1938. She is the second daughter of famous Kannada dramatist and Sanskrit scholar Adya Rangacharya. She completed her graduation in Economics from Bombay's (now Mumbai) Elphinston College. She holds a degree in Law too. Being interested in journalism, for a couple of months she worked as a journalist for the magazine, 'Onlooker'. She began her writing career in 1970 after the birth of her two sons with a collection of short-stories, The Legacy published in 1978. Her stories first appeared in the magazines like, Femina, Eve's Weekly, The Illustrated Weekly of India, Deccan Herald, J.S. etc. Till the date, she wrote twelve novels of which her first novel, Roots and Shadows though published after Dark Holds No Terrors won prize for the best Indian Novel of 1982-83 For her another novel, That Long Silence, she received Sahitya Akademi Award in 1990 and Padmashri Award in 2009. She has four books for children and a book of essays to her credit. Shashi Deshpande, though was familiar with both Marathi as her mother's language and Kannada her father's language, she chose English for her writing. Being an Indian woman writer, she specifically writes about Indian life in Indian language. The beauty of Indianized English has been enhanced through her writing that comes in various forms of literature. Deshpande's advocacy of 'Indian English' primary aims at unravelling the inner landscape of man-woman relationship in India. She explicitly talks of her desire to write of 'people, who were waiting inside her.' The other women writers for instance, Nayantara Sehgal, Anita Desai and Jai Nimbkar too have contributed to Indian Writing in English with their major thrust upon the study of fluctuating status of Indian middle-class woman through their novels and short-stories.

b) Woman: Her Role and Subservient Status Human civilization is divided into two parts- Man and Woman. Nearly half of the world's population has been of woman right from the dawn of civilization till today. The cultural height of a society depends on the kind of status the society offers to a woman, that is, the attitude particularly of the male members of the society to a woman. Though changing, the condition of woman in India is still far from satisfactory on account of sex, caste, class and traditional value system. In the conventional caste system of India, woman herself has always been looked upon as a caste. Vrinda Nabar (1995:50) says, 'To be caste as woman in India is to live out this triple-layered existence.' The disparity in the role of man and woman in various walks of life has always created a social imbalance all over the world. While examining the sex-role, the society has been compared to a bird, whose two wings Prabhati Mukherjee (1978:01) says, "... represent two sexes, the balanced and smooth functioning of which are absolutely necessary to both these cases. The two wings, to continue to simile are very ill proportioned in India, which prevent Indian society from progressing smoothly." Woman's social role and her social status are interrelated. That is why woman's role, which is, what the 'mighty' sex wants her to do that determines her status. Therefore, the status of woman has to be seen in the socio-cultural, economic, political and psychological contexts. It is the woman who is supposed to be the custodian of social and

religious conventions. Apart from being a machine of perpetuation, she also has to be 'a show-piece.' It seems that even God has done a great injustice to woman by attributing to her the function of reproduction. In case of woman, subordination results usually from factors like sex-discrimination, economic dependence, traditional customs, unfavourable environment, ignorance, superstitions, prejudices, and so on. These factors conspire together to mould her mental makeup in such a way that she has to accept the subordinate role in the given socio-economic