

## DEPICTION OF THE WOMEN PROBLEMS AND OTHER SOCIETAL ISSUES IN ANEES JUNG'S SELECTED WORKS

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### Abstract

*Anees Jung is a contemporary Indian female writer. She is mostly noted for highlighting rural and urban women problems in her works. As a social worker and writer she tries to uncover the bitter realities of the Indian society. Her works are appeared in interview forms which present the writer's direct encounter with the rural and urban common women of country. Besides Jung sketches the agony and suffering mediocre women who are subjected daily in the hands of patriarchal men in their household or in working place. This paper will discuss Jung masterpiece Unveiling India in a detail manner. Moreover her interviews with the several women present the both sides of society in which women identity occurs both in positive and negative ways. This work includes both kind of women which represent victims, passive, identity loss and also independent, strong will, ambitious and liberated women in contemporary period.*

**Keywords:** Unveiling India, Anees Jung, Political, Social, Cultural status of women, Male Hegemony.

Anees Jung is considered a foremost writer from India. She completed her college education from her native place Hyderabad and later went to America where she received her master degree from University of Michigan. She began her career as a literary editor in a national magazine from 1973 to 1980 and also produces miscellaneous writings in the form of articles, reviews, critical studies as a content writer which finds place into different global publication houses and magazines such as New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, Vogue and International Herald Tribune. Besides she also found opportunity to work as an advisor in UNESCO in 1994 in Pairs. Later she has been assigned to work in India to ascertain the women condition in contemporary period and this UNESCO's work result out in a compilation which includes the contemporary female status in India and changing or orthodox perspective of society regarding women identity. She is eulogized critically in the following lines:

Author interacts with a variety of women in various parts of the country in their own environments. ...and tries to understand their journeys. Though like everyone else we have a stereotype in mind for rural women, urban women. For women who are behind the veil, for women who come to our homes to work and for almost all kinds of them. Through her conversations and observations author has tried to unveil the real women behind these stereotypes. She looks at the choices they made most of the times consciously. (Goyal)

In this study Jung tries to seek the answer for the ongoing suppression, victimization, oppression and problems of Indian rural as well as urban poor women. Her interviews with the various poor, victims, rural, urban, independent women appeared into a book form later that titled *Unveiling India* in 1987. This book received wide acclamation and critical praised at national or global level in literary world. Basically this study divided into chapters which present writer and other people both male and female mostly interviews which are realistic and factual description of the lives of different class women. The title of the chapters in the book signifies the content of the writings and writer's objective such as the chapters are outside the frame, Women and men, Marriage and love, Mothers and children, City women, Women in the country and others. This book is a classical instance of knowing Indian social and cultural status through its characters. Moreover the writer's encounter with the different female gives us the real account of women lives and changing trends and attitudes towards matriarchal community in our country. The book begins with the scene of writer's own childhood memories in which she cites the influence of patriarchy in her own house though they were the part of aristocratic society, she adds that:

There were no mothers in the photographs... My mother remain absent in the only family portrait that rests on the last page of the album. Her seven children are grouped solemnly around a father, proud in the color black. ...my mother, it appears, has no claim on this happy world which she has helped create. (Jung, pp.13-14)

The above examples from the text demonstrate the gender discrimination and female subordinate position in Indian household irrespective of class. Further Jung describe the traumatic and unbearable situation of rural society in India where women suffers specifically in diverse ways. Jung asserts that these village women: "She is his wife, not his better half. ...the farmer has changed his wheels but not the culture of his mind... His wife, to him is a mere tool, necessary to keep a unit complete and further a generation. He has no room for her. She finds room for herself in her motherhood." (pp. 47-48). Thus such dark description not only shows the villager's pathetic mindset about women but also the suffering of urban cities women who are victims of loneliness and meaningless life existence. It is said that a women always remain the victims because of their identity. They spend their whole lives with male identity as a daughter, sister, wife and mother in old age and all this trauma causes'

mental chaos in their live and she face identity crisis. Another subject that is highlighted by the problems of marriage relationship where female always suffers a lot and follow predicament in the forms of customs, culture and social dogmas. However they have to blindly support their partners in everything and spend whole life as a passive subordinate creature irrespective of sadness, tension, anxiety and suffering and as a commodity and property:

When I become his wife, I become his property, says a young woman, who has never spent time talking to her husband. They have been married for ten years. He doesn't talk to me. He will speak to a woman in the village. But then he doesn't married to her. He doesn't love me. He rapes me every night. How can I say to him? If I do I will throw out of the house. The act of love for her, as for millions women, is dumb duty as compulsive as being a good wife and a good mother. (Unveiling India)

Though the early chapters in the book Jung put focus on the pathetic conditions of the matriarchal community and influence of patriarchy over the societal structure. Besides she points out the severe issues which subjugate women position such as religious practices, marriage institution, domestic violence and other problems. Further she brought out the pictures of different side in which women identity characterizes strong, independent, educated, working, ambitious, liberated, dreamy eyes, intellectual etcetera. Hence all these positive aspects signifies the changing status of women in contemporary India as well as enhancement of women in different sectors without discrimination. The writer cites the examples of some feminist women, activists and Ngo who are working for the education of girls in their respective fields i.e. Bollamma, an deformed women, doing continue efforts from many years for the children education. Another woman Madhukar stated that: 'If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate a whole family.' (Jung, p.92) The development of different organizations, Ngos and other agencies in the context women social, cultural, political, economic development is a momentous sign in contemporary period. Annes Jung cites the example of an institution that:

It is only when the Mahila Mandal emerged that life changed in our villages....My mother's position in society depended on how many children she had. Her energy was consumed by her children. She had no time to think of the village or other women. My wife now works more outside than in the home. She not only runs her home but helps other women run theirs... Our women now question, know their worth. (pp. 99-100)

Jung includes the interview of a Dr. named Raj Arole who advocates women excessive and equal participation in societal aspects for the betterment of the country. He opines that without female involvement social progress is not possible and society should assessed their identity by their strength and work not by their societal framed stereotype image which present women weak, emotional and timid. Ela Bhatt, a member of SEWA foundation, talks

about the women contribution in their company that: When women are associated outside their role of a wife, mother or homemaker, two things happen to them. They start perceiving their role for the country, thus boosting their self-image. Secondly, they forget caste and race differences.....It is work that determines their identity and not the mere fact that they are women.” (p. 122) Therefore all these instances shows the positive side of the country in relation to women status. Further Anees Jung remarks that though there are many women are working for the development of common women condition while educated and liberal mind male groups also played significant role to enhance women status in the society and it clarifies that their views and opinions about women is a great thing for our society. Raj, a village but educated man asserts his views on women role in society:

One is not complete without the other. Woman stands equal to man in the Vedas. Man’s duty to her is as integral and binding as is her devotion to him. Through service to her husband, who is also her guru, a woman fulfils herself. Like the river that does not drink its own water or the tree its own fruit.... She is to man as mother to a son, as one who serves, as one who is a wise adviser, a lover as good as a courtesan and above all, like the earth, one who has the ability to forgive. (p. 59)

Thus in conclusion it can be said that there are various factors which can play the role in the holistic development of women condition such as Education, health facilities and social, political and economic equality, awareness and by all these things matriarchal community can achieve proper respect and equality in the society. Besides social awakening it is also responsibility of the government to create awareness about the women welfare and provide proper education, assistance and help to the women in different parts of life.

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