

## **Objectives of the Project**

In most of the women writers, we find that different aspects of feminism. Doris Lessing is partly feminist. In most of her novels she deals with the women experiences at all levels. The images and experiences of women are focused in her novels. The aims and objectives of my research work is to explore the feminism in her some of the novels.

## **Achievement from the Project**

Feminism is having an importance at National status. It is theory of political, economic and the social equality of the sexes. It is ongoing battle for the last 1000 years. At national level, women are striving to reach a sense of equality to men and trying to protect from physical abuse.

To provide equal right to all women writers in the present scenario. This is a universal problem. Women must learn a lesson to be bold, courageous and strong to face the atrocities, to face the challenges in the future to come. Women must have equal participation in all the fields like economical, political, social, communal and cultural. Women would be given an opportunity to enhance their job skills. Women's participation in various field would be increase. Women's emancipation is one of the significance of the study of feminism.

## Summary of the Project

The appearance of Feminism in 1960 signaled a new phase in the debate and agitation about women's rights and freedom that had flared for hundreds of years. The meaning of feminism also differed from the woman movement. It was both broader and narrower, broader in content, proclaiming revolution in all the relations of the sexes, and narrower in the range of its willing adherents. Feminism asks for sexual equality that includes sexual differences. It aims for individual freedoms by mobilizing sex solidarity. It is a struggle for women's rights and freedoms. The real goal was a "complete social revolution" freedom from all form of women's active expression. 19<sup>th</sup> century feminists could argue on equalitarian ground for equal opportunity in education and employment and for equal rights to property, law and political representation.

The Golden Notebook is a story of a divorced single mother Anna Wulf who works as a novelist in 1950s London. Anna is worried that her bad experiences and relationships with wrong men are going to drive her crazy. This makes her record her life and experiences in four different notebooks. The black notebook deals with her life as a writer, the red records her political views, the yellow is about her emotional life and the blue one deals with her everyday life. But the most important notebook is the fifth one - the golden notebook- where all her experiences connect



and she starts to understand her own life and her search for a personal and political identity ends. Summarizing the novel in a few words one can say it is: "Bold and illuminating, fusing sex, politics, madness and motherhood, 'The Golden Notebook' is at once a wry and perceptive portrait of the intellectual and moral climate of the 1950s – a society on the brink of feminism".

One of the most significant themes in this novel is family and home which also is a clear feature in typical feminist novels, dealing with women's everyday life since women tend to be the sex that dominates within these areas. As in everyday life and in many other novels women are usually the ones who stay at home taking care of the household while men work outside the home, supporting the family. Moreover the women mentioned in the novel are mostly mothers and housekeepers, caring for their children and their home.

The Fifth child, Lessing's novel about a mother's attempt to come to terms with her 'alien' child is reminiscent of Kristeva's emphasis on the need to accept the stranger within one's own self: 'strangely, the foreigner lives within us: he is the hidden face of our identity, the space that wrecks our abode, the time in which understanding and affinity founder. By recognizing him within ourselves, we are spared detesting him in himself' (Kristeva 1991). Placing 'otherness' at the heart of her conception of subjectivity, Kristeva uses motherhood as a metaphor for such internal ruptures: 'It is an identity that splits, turns in on itself and

changes without becoming other' (Kristeva 1986:297). the child in the womb is part of the mother's body, yet a separate entity; the mother thus carries the 'other' within herself. although Lessing prefers to dissociate herself from the realm of critical theory, Kristeva's formulations provide a useful model for reading the fifth child. both Kristeva and Lessing avoid an explicitly feminist position, placing their exploration of gendered subjectivity in the context of larger social concerns; all the same, they raise issues that are of great interest to feminist critics.

Love, Again marks a return to the theme of romantic love, but with an unexpected twist to the familiar subject. Sarah Durham, the central figure, is a woman of 65, who must confront the realization that she is still susceptible to love and sexual desire, at an age when such emotions are considered unacceptable. An intense conflict between expected social roles and repressed inner longings provides the framework for Lessing's exploration of female subjectivity in this novel. Most of the major characters in Love, Again experience a painful division between the image they project in public and secret urges they struggle with in private.

Lessing is an exceptionally radical, innovative and stubbornly uncategorisable author. Her constant experimentation with the novel form, with genre, with a dizzying array of themes, and even with her own identity as a novelist – notably in the case of the *Jane Somers* experiment, when she tricked her publishers and later readers by



submitting manuscripts under a pseudonym – has occasionally been met with bewilderment if not outright dismissal from prominent critics. Her body of work includes everything from the celebrated psychological realism of her debut, *The Grass is Singing* (1950), through multiple collections of essays, stage plays, teleplays, opera librettos, novels, collections of short stories and two volumes of autobiography. Her novels cannot be grouped together with any ease. They range from the coming-of-age narrative of the first four volumes of her quintet, *The Children of Violence* (1952-1969), through the appearance of telepathy and apocalypticism in that series' final volume, the disappearance of human protagonists in the space-fiction of *Canopus in Argos* (1979-1983), to the twisted magic realism of *The Fifth Child* (1988), back to the comparatively stable ground of *love, again* (1996), and most recently to the semi-autobiographical *Alfred and Emily* (2008), which will almost certainly be her last work.

Similarly, *The Summer before the Dark* (1973) focuses on a middle-aged woman who has a brief affair with a younger man as means to rediscover a sense of identity. In *Briefing for a Descent into Hell* (1971) two psychiatrists attempt to restore a delirious Cambridge professor to their ideal of sanity. As the professor wanders through a space/time warp of his own psyche, he experiences the unity of creation and envisions a future apocalypse. He is ultimately left to ponder whether his vision is valid or the product of hallucination.

## **Contribution to the Society**

The concept of feminism is greatly contributed to the society. Through this concept the women in the society comes to know their rights regarding social, political, economical, cultural and educational. It produces a greater sharing, a greater sisterhood. It shows women's rights including the same pay as men, equal rights in law and the freedom to plan their families. The women in the society would come to know how to annihilate the various issues like economic justice, curbing of sex discrimination, promoting diversity and ending racism, stopping violence, sexual abuse and so on.