

# *Comparative Literature*

*A Global Perspective*

*Edited by*

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**COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**  
**A Global Perspective**

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First Published : 2018

ISBN 978-93-86655-60-8

*Published by :*

**PACIFIC BOOKS INTERNATIONAL**

108, 1st Floor, 4832/24, Prahlad Street,  
Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi - 110002  
Phone : 011-23268444, Mob. : 09212526400  
e-mail : [pacificbooks@rediffmail.com](mailto:pacificbooks@rediffmail.com),  
[pacificbooksinternational@gmail.com](mailto:pacificbooksinternational@gmail.com)

Laser Typesetting by :  
**Vedansh Computers**  
Delhi - 110009

Printed at :  
**Roshan Offset Printers**  
Delhi

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## **Shashi Deshpande's *The Dark Holds No Terrors* and Shobha De's *Socialite Evenings*: Comparison and Contrast of Women Characters**

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**Dr. Suruchi Sharma**

Characters play the main role in any novel and the characters reflect the contemporary society. That's why literature has been called the mirror of the society. In this context, a novelist generally writes whatever is observed by him/her. Many women writers have always taken the theme of womanhood and gender studies in their works. This paper offers a critical study of women characters of two novels Shashi Deshpande's *The Dark Holds No Terrors* and Shobha De's *Socialite Evenings*. Shashi Deshpande's women characters belong to the middle class while Shobha De's characters are from the upper class. Deshpande's women characters hesitate to break their nuptial ties but Shobha's characters take marriage very lightly.

*The Dark Holds No Terrors* (1980) is Shashi Deshpande's first published novel. Its central female character Sarita (Saru) is discriminated in her own home. Her mother neglects her and considers her a burden. She is not given equal opportunity at her own home. She is held responsible for the death of her brother who drowns in front of her eyes but she could not do anything to save him.

# Comparative Literature

## *A Global Perspective*

The study of Comparative Literature is now a living, developing and evolving literary force augmenting a new direction on comparative line of thinking and analyzing from a global perspective. Having begun as 'a hot-house-plant', it has established its firm roots in World literature in general and in Indian soil in particular attaining a rich growth and mounting extraordinary heights in the context of the contemporary literary scene with a good number of authors, critics, readers, researchers, teachers and students taking special interest in the study of Comparative Literature which nourishes a noticeable readership across the world. This anthology on *Comparative Literature: A Global Perspective* is a collection of twenty-eight articles by dedicated Indian scholars / teachers shedding light on the study of Comparative Literature with all its features in tune with regional literature so as to provide true significance and value to the literary investigation at various levels like linguistic, national, multi-lingual and cultural from a global perspective. Articles on various aspects of Comparative Literature have found their place in this anthology. It is sincerely hoped that this humble literary venture to spotlight the multifaceted literary relations across national, linguistic and cultural boundaries will be of immense help and use to the teachers, researchers and students for evaluation and investigation on the study of Comparative Literature from a global perspective. The intellectually-gifted contributors for this anthology are Dr. S. Chelliah, Dr. T. Marx, Dr. B. Manivannan, Dr. J.G. Duresh, S. Johny, Dr. J. Renuka Retnavathy, Dr. P. Kolappadhas, A. Periyasamy, B. Lakshmanan, Imayavarman. I., Dr. S. Chandralekha, Sandhya and Dr. M. Kannadhasan, Dr. Sameer Ahmad Dar, Rafaquat Raja, Huzaifa Pandit, Dr. P. Mohana Rao, Dr. Suruchi Sharma, Dr. Kusum Kanger, Dr. Sumitra Singh, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat, Dr. Neha Arora, Dr. Prachi Priyanka, Dr. Meetu Bhatia Kapur, Dr. Shikha Saxena, Dr. Deebea Iqbal, Dr. Anita Sharma, Dr. R. Subramony and Prof. D. Amalraj.



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Mobile/Whatsapp:9212526400,

Landline-011-23268444

Email:-pacificbooksinternational@gmail.com

Price: ₹ 995

ISBN 978-93-86655-60-8

