

# Indian Writing in English

Contemporary Trends and Concerns

Alka Sharma  
Satinder K. Verma



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# Repression and Resistance in Indian Middle Class Society: An Analysis

Geeta Goyal

## Abstract

Women's marginalisation and oppression in the patriarchal social set-up has been the primary concern of many Indian English novelists, dramatists, and poets. Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Rama Mehta, Manju Kapoor, Kamala Das depict the pain and anguish of women and bring out their struggle for identity as a wife, mother and most importantly as a human being in the middle class Indian society. Vijay Tendulkar, a famous Indian playwright, in his play *Silence! The Court is in Session* also brings out the repression and resistance of an educated woman in name of societal norms and moralities. The play exposes the hypocrisy of the middle class society and ironically reveals the reality of 'the cultured men of the 20<sup>th</sup> century'. The issue of women's vulnerability in our society has been highlighted through Benare, the protagonist. She represents thousands of women who face discrimination inside and outside their homes, at workplace, in society and are specifically targeted due to the narrow mindset of the contemporary middle class. The paper attempts to bring out the struggle and resistance of the protagonist against the societal norms and exposes the hollowness of the middle class moralities. An attempt has also been made to examine several pertinent issues such as rights of women, meaning/importance of freedom for a woman in a tradition bound patriarchal society, institution of marriage for a respectable life etc. Further, the connotation of the word 'Silence' has been explored.

**Keywords:** Silence, Repression, Resistance, identity

Vijay Tendulkar, a renowned playwright of the 20th century,

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**Dr. Alka Sharma**

Dr. Alka Sharma, a Ph.D, is an Associate Professor of English at Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt. She was awarded UGC Fellowship for her doctoral research. Dr. Sharma has 30 years of teaching experience of under-graduate and post-graduate classes. She has organised and presented papers in National and International Seminars and Conferences. She has authored Book titled 'Revisiting History: Narratives from Past'. She has edited 3 books titled 'Crisis of Human Rights and Value Consciousness in Indian Education System' (2006), 'Woman Consciousness and Indian Ethos' (2008), 'Value Frame Work in Good Governance' (2011). She has supervised the research work of M.Phil and Ph. D students. She has also written lessons for students of Distance Education, KUK. Dr. Sharma has been UGC trainer for Women Managers in Higher Education. She has travelled widely in and outside India. She has been to USA, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Vatican City, Singapore, Malaysia. At present, she is the Head of the Post-graduate Department of English, Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt (Haryana).



**Dr. Satinder K. Verma**

**Dr. Satinder K. Verma** is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt (Haryana), where he has been working since 2008. He has been teaching the UG and PG students for the last 20 years. He obtained his doctorate from Ch. Charan Singh University Meerut on Black American Poetry.

Dr. Verma has published 35 Research Papers in National and International Journals and edited books. He has been a Ph.D thesis Adjudicator for Savitribai Phule Pune University, University of Mumbai and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Maharashtra.

Dr Verma has also supervised 05 Ph.D and more than 35 M. Phil students. He has been the Editor of Multi-disciplinary Bi-annual Refereed/Peer Reviewed and UGC Approved Research Journals 'Research Drops' since 2011 and 'Purva Mimaansa' since 2021.

He has actively participated in 40 Orientation, Refresher courses, National and International Seminars and Conferences.



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