

The women's struggle in Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe*

R Madhivadhani¹, Dr. Shibila²

¹ Research Scholar, PRIST Deemed University, Vallam, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India

² Research Supervisor, PRIST Deemed University, Vallam, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

The women try to be equal to men. both at home and in the work place. Manju Kapur, Anita Desai, Nayan Tara Sehgal, Kamala Markandaya and many other writers say that women in their novels are changed. They have learnt to speak about their problems; their silence has gone and speech has taken its place. Anita Nair is one of the finest writers in Indian Writing in English who writes about women's struggle. She effectively highlights the trials and tribulations faced by women in a patriarchal society. Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe* deals with the stories of several female characters, who struggle to achieve their selfhood. In *Ladies Coupe* Anita Nair focuses on men and women relationship, marriage, divorce, social, cultural and psychological issues. The characters in *Ladies Coupe* have their own pain and sorrow but they eventually in their overcome their entire struggle and have their own life in their society. This paper deals with Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe* presents half a dozen ladies travelling by train to various places. They describe their struggle and experiences to one another. Akila is the central figure in the novel.

Keywords: women, struggle, *Ladies Coupe*, Anita Nair

Introduction

The Women in her novels face injustice, male-dominance, physical violence and yet they try to fulfill their domestic responsibility. Manju Kapur, Anita Desai, Nayan Tara Sehgal, Kamala Markandeya and many more writers say that women in their novels are changed women because they have learnt to speak about their problems silence has gone and speech has taken its place. Women have to of status etc. Anita Nair has presented women from different strata of society, but all of them suffer under patriarchal domination. In *Ladies Coupe* expresses the dynamic view of five different women who are supposed to travel in the same compartment of the train, which goes to Kanyakumari.

Ladies Coupe follows the journey of middle aged women along with protagonist Akhila. Akhila is a 45 years old lady. She works as a clerk in income tax office. She goes to Kanyakumari for official work. She meets in the train another five ladies travelling to Kanyakumari. Anita Nair describes six ladies' conversation. They speak from their heart. Their past life, present life in their bitter experience, love, friendship, marriage cultural problem, divorce, sexual life, pain, political problems and many others struggles are revealed.

Margret Shanthi, a chemistry teacher, Janaki, 15 years old Sheela, Prabha Devi a rich woman and a poor lady Marikolunthu are the ladies in the compartment. After sitting in the coupe, these women start talking about themselves. The woman by the door is poorly dressed She does not take part in the conversation. It looks as though she has seen all kinds of human fickleness and fallibility, and there is nothing more to be experienced. Akila says that after her father death, she has to work and look after the family. By the time they have all settled in their lives, she is too old to marry. She is fed up with adjusting herself to the other members of her family. She wants to live freely somewhere at least for a few days. She decides to go to

Kanyakumari. She's mother is very conventional. Akhila's life can be divided into two parts- Akhila when her father is alive and Akhila after her father's death. She uncomplainingly undertakes the unenviable task of supporting the family all by herself. She becomes the sole prop and pillar of the family. But nobody cares for her. She is like the proverbial ladder which lifts others., itself remaining stationary. She is also like the candle, spreading light but burning itself out in the process.

The second character was Margret Shanthi who works in Chemistry department. Her husband Ebenzer Paulraj, vice-principal of a prestigious school. They work at same school. Paulraj succeeds in, She is forced to do B.Ed., though she wants to do Phd., This is her first compromise Secondly, when she becomes pregnant, Ebenezer compels her to abort herself, saying that they are not yet settled. Margaret is profoundly shocked. She consents to abort with great unwillingness. She takes revenge in a subtle manner. Shanthi every time spends chemistry lab, so the body was not supposed to due to her work body weak condition, She suffers a abortion. Because, the couple with do not understanding and argument. The Couple face ego-problems and struggle to maintain helping relationship.

Janaki was an Indian wife. She faced many problems and struggles adjusting with her husband, relatives, and children. Nair write Janaki Prabhahars in life style is very beautiful and respectful. The Couple have long married life for forty years. Her husband is a loveable person and caring partner. i.e., "The skills of marriage-cooking and cleaning, sewing and pickling" (LC25)

The husband controlled everybody, even their grow up son. Janaki's son Siddharth is old enough to be trusted to buy a pair of shoes on his own, Janaki was just trying to help. That's not helping you just want to control him. "You want to control everybody you want everyone to do your bidding she output of the feeling" (LC30). She father and son. The

crisis between Janaki psychological tension was feeling. Every night for the past ten years Janaki's body condition was weak. The Doctor advised her to take a tablet. The doctor had helped her lift her legs out of the stirrups slung over the examination table and had smothered the aqua-green hospital smoke over her thighs. He had smiled and assured her, 'You are absolutely alright. As for your not being able to sleep...' he had shrugged casually. "When you get a certain age, sleep does become difficult" (LC27).

Janaki running 40 years remembers her past life, and problems. That's long time for a couple to stay together. Her starting appreciate to Akhila's query "why should a woman live by herself? (LC21) First there was my father and brothers; then my husband. When my husband is gone there will be Son, Woman like me end up Being fragile (LC22).

The fourth passenger is Prabhadevi a co-passenger journeying in the train. Her mother be armed with pride in Prabha Devi turned eighteen. She was everything that a girl ought to be, she was a good designer, a good cook, "a good singer, her needle work was perfect. "Whose, ideas were light and soft", and "walked with small mincing steps, her forever bowed, suppliant, womanly. (LC170). After her marriage with husband name Jagadeesh, who owns a jewellery shop, she acts as a nuclear wife, waiting 'for Jagdeesh to come home, for the babies to be born. For their step, their first word, their first triumph...Waiting for something to happen while her life, She wished past in a blur of insignificant days' (LC172).

The passenger is Sheela. She is a sensitive girl of 14 years old, and blessed with a deep insight. She looks at the family around her and relationship between her grandmother, mother, and father and she understands the dynamics of life. Her grandmother teaches her practical life. She would great them regularly, demanding total homage. Nothingles would satisfy her. She nurtures a true attachment to her grandma. Grandma died, hen Sheela become matured girl. Her conversation with other woman travelers seems to be a matured one. The knowledge of the three generation woman can be found in sheels, her mothers and her grandmother' and also her own. She knows that. Woman turn to their mother when they have no one else to turn to woman know that a mother alone will find it possible to unearth some shred of compassion and love that in everyone else has become ashes"(LC71)

Sheela's grandmother every time teaching her about, men who dominate women with negative thought, negative picture, men torturing when a mentally, psychologically and physically, problem was say to grandma. Sheela's father, remember by her words for speaking to buys and for being rude. He encouraged her to speak "with a razor -edged wit and a finally developed skill of repartee".(LC70) Sheela mummy caught to prevent Ammamma from talking and father. She had spoiled Sheela listening. All men are not good person, So maintain a distance from men her to grandma advised. Her grandma was a practical Woman.

The Next character Marikolunthu, was born in little village called Palur near Kanchipuram. Her father was a poor farmer. Mother works with house keeper in Chettiar Kottai. When Marikolunthu was Childhood, her father died. So her family depend upon their relations. Anita Nair described Marikolunthu character was with the deep psychological insight, rural background the Society, Indian women face many sexual problems. The author skillfully utilizes the story of Marikolunthu to comment upon the sexual

explosion. Many men take advantage of women's weakness, frustration, dependence, illiteracy, loneliness and ignorance. Nair's with a deep imminent, emotional proficiently utilizes the stay Marikolunthu. The society dominated by patriarchal culture tends to lay down the rule that a women's liability. Marikolunthu lacks knowledge. Her mother become as becidied. So she worked at chettiar kottai, Sujatha Akka helped her and Sujatha's husband gave sexual torture to Marikolunthu. So, Sujatha possess Marikolunthu out of her house hold. Another person Murugesan her nephew raped Marikolunthu of that she pregnant. Because of frequent two times pregnancy. Her uterus was spoiled. The doctor advised her uterus removed, She does not have money sand Murugesan paid 5000 rupees. Importantly, these stories deal with the psychological feelings of children. Moreover, it is highly commendable that Anita Nair is a writer of myths. *Magical Indian Myths* is a collection of fifty myths of Indian culture.

Conclusion

Anita Nair novels have taken on an easy space, giving enough silage to an engaging reader, yet not being inscrutable' Books should not seems an effort,' she says All the five different novels "*The Better Man*", *Ladies Coupe* '*Mistress*', '*Lessons in Forgetting*' and '*Cut like Wound*. She writes about an Indian Traditional women life style was difficulties. She express the novel was men and relationship, struggles, physical mental problems, economical, man dominated problem, was illustrated.

Indian women round up the family members addict the life. She also the rapport of the husband and wife. Women, First father, brother next husband old age son undergoing the life. Indian Traditional cultures rules was follows the generation continues, so the women was old habit follow us. Indian women final target was married. Environment and Sorrounding the life run up men foot. Daily Life Protect give to the Women. They deal with radical changes in attitude towards Sex, Social roles and marital relationship.

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