



STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIAN CULTURE THROUGH THE LENSES OF AMISH TRIPATHI AND KAVITA KANE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE WORK

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Abstract

Amish Tripathi a renowned banker turned writer puts a perfect blend of Indian culture with modern values in his famous work shiva trilogy and Ramchandra series. Amish bridges new generation with the ethical values of Indian culture through logical definition or characterization of Indian mythological characters. Similarly, Women's voice Kavita kane also reflects the richness of Indian culture through her work. Her work touches secondary characters of Indian mythology but strong voice of our Indian culture. Both writers reflect the status of Indian women in our Indian culture. Symbolizing them as brave, warrior, intellectual, decision maker, and many more adjectives Amish and Kavita also attacks on some evil social norms. Amish and Kavita strongly weaves their women character with the thread of bravery, tolerance, knowledge, independent etc. This article aims to put forward the status of women in our Indian Culture through the lens of Amish Tripathi and Kavita.

Keywords: Indian culture, Mythology, warrior, Amish Tripathi, Kavita kane, social norms

INTRODUCTION

“**Amish Tripathi** (born 18 October 1974) is an author, former diplomat and broadcaster from India. He is among the fastest-selling authors in Indian publishing history, known best for *The Shiva Trilogy* and *Ram Chandra Series*.”

Tripathi, who is well-known for his mythological fiction works like the Shiva Trilogy and the Ram Chandra works. His creations, which reflect Indian mythology, retell old tales with a contemporary sensibility while emphasizing the power, strength, and intelligence of female protagonists.

Kavita Kane is an Indian writer who is well-known for narrating myths from the viewpoint of underappreciated female characters. Her writings provide women a complex and powerful representation. Her books frequently rewrite established storylines, enhancing the challenges of these women and emphasizing their courage, wit, and importance in the epic tales.

This research paper will put forward the concept of status of women in ancient mythology. Amish and Kavita, both the author frame these females character from Indian mythology to set an example for this technological generations about the dignity of women to be maintained in current scenario.

The following summarizes the roles and traits of women in the writings of Kavita Kane and Amish Tripathi:

Sati:

She is portrayed as a brave warrior and a skilful swordswoman, displaying her brute power and battle abilities.

“She however deftly side- stepped her protective hand, reached into the folds of her angavastram and drew out her own sword.”²

Sati, as a character, embodies the struggle against oppressive social norms names ‘Vikarma’ and the quest for personal freedom and dignity. Her journey symbolizes resistance to outdated and harmful practices. Through the narrative, the book criticizes the custom of sati by highlighting its impact on individuals, particularly women. She plays a significant role in Shiva's choice-making processes and gives him sage advice, demonstrating her knowledge and wisdom. Apart from that sati is a devoted partner. The core of the trilogy is the great love, respect, and partnership that characterize Sati and Shiva's relationship.

The second character mentioned is Anandmayi (Princess of Ayodhya). She is described as a courageous, independent woman who isn't reluctant to express her viewpoints or make her own decisions. She frequently participates in governance and strategic conversations, revealing her astute intellect and command of diplomacy and administration. Anandmayi is portrayed as a strong, self-reliant lady who isn't hesitant to voice her opinions and uphold her beliefs. She stands out as a character in the series because of her aggressiveness and strong drive. She exhibits an extreme degree of devotion and loyalty, especially to people she loves. Her steadfast dedication to her loved ones in the face of peril or catastrophe is a clear indication of her affection and loyalty. Anandmayi strikes a balance between tradition and contemporary across the entire series. She acknowledges cultural customs and norms, but she also redefines and questions them with her beliefs and actions. She is a dynamic and sympathetic character because of her dualism.

Sita:

Sita is portrayed as both a scholar with a profound understanding of Vedic scriptures and governance and a warrior princess with extraordinary battle prowess.

She is shown to be an effective administrator who can take command of circumstances and make vital choices in an emergency.

Sita's persona defies the stereotype of the usual subservient person, portraying her as a strong, independent woman. Amish addresses the idea of feminine power through Sita. She embodies both the caring and destructive elements of Shakti, the divine feminine energy, depending on the situation. Her persona subverts gender norms and emphasizes the power and promise of women. Amish presents Sita as a fiercely independent and self-assured woman. Speaking her views and questioning the existing quo are not fears for her. Her encounters with other characters demonstrate her assertiveness as she stands by her values and takes independent action.

Kaikeyi:

Kaikeyi is depicted with nuance and complexity, showcasing both her ambitious and lovable aspects. She has an enormous effect on the plot and is shown to have authority inside the royal family by her influence over King Dashrath. Kaikeyi is a complex character who is very different from the one-dimensional antagonist of conventional tales. She is shown as a cunning, powerful, and incredibly caring mother whose acts are motivated by a complicated web of political and personal agendas, despite their disputed nature. Even if they disagree with her behaviour, readers can still understand and sympathize with her because of this nuanced picture. Kavita Kane's views also agree with Tripathi's views. In her work "Sita's sister Kavita mentions Kaikeyi's utmost love toward Rama.

"Because very simply, Mother Kaikeyi was worried that my mangaldosh and the delay of our mahurat might work adversely for me. That it would eventually kill me," said Ram quietly. She was worried and this miscommunication happened because things happened too fast. It was an anxious, worried mother you saw reacting."³

Important Books and Figures

1. Uruvi:

Uruvi is shown to be a wise and sympathetic woman who empathizes with Karna and helps him overcome his obstacles. She exhibits her independence by questioning social standards and sticking to her convictions. This can be clearly understood from the following depiction:

"I admire Vrushi more than any woman I have ever known." Said Karna gravely. But Uruvi is much too good for me. She has a wonderful intelligence; she is as good as she is lovely. I love her enthusiasm, her lively humour, her ambition to work as a healer. She is interested in everything and has a lot of knowledge and good sense."⁴

2) Urmila

Depicted as a strong woman who bears the agony of being separated from her husband, Lakshman, with elegance and fortitude, Urmila occasionally gets eclipsed by her sister Sita. quiet Pillar: She is portrayed as a strong, quiet pillar who's acts are essential to the Ramayana's larger story.

“Urmila Smiled.’ It is like we never parted, isn’t it? You are always with me and I am here with you....”⁵

3) Menaka

Menaka, the celestial nymph, is presented as a multifaceted figure who struggles with her responsibilities and desires while making decisions that symbolize her agency. Her intelligence and beauty are emphasized as potent instruments she employs to deal with her situation.

“She is a ravishing beautiful and clever out daring other celestial beings, even the wife of Indra. It can be seen in the novel in incidents where Indra thinks of Menaka. She was sharp, unlike Rambha, Gritachi, or Manorama, the other apsaras who had been brought forth before Menaka...She was also beautiful than them. (Kane 3) “⁶

4. The Tragic and Misrepresented Character of Lanka's Princess Surpanakha is presented as a misunderstood figure whose actions and intentions are given depth and placing her in an additional relatable light. Despite her terrible destiny, she is portrayed as powerful and resilient, defying the conventional demonization of her persona.

5 The Fisher Queen's Dynasty The Mahabharata portrays Satyawati as a lady possessed of immense ambition and will, whose deeds profoundly influence the progression of events. Her position as a matriarch highlights her influence and the authority she possesses both inside her relatives and the country.

Kavita Kane's portrayal of women as powerful individuals with agency, capable of making decisions that affect both their own lives and the story as a whole, is one of the book's central themes. The female characters in her books frequently demonstrate extraordinary fortitude and tenacity. The story's strategic and philosophical aspects are further enhanced by the portrayal of numerous people in Kane as being exceptionally knowledgeable and wise. Kane's depiction of women is characterized by their nuance and complexity, exhibiting them as multifaceted individuals possessing distinct interests, motivations, and imperfections.

Norm-Challenging: Her paintings often subvert gender preconceptions and conventions, providing a modern and progressive interpretation of well-known mythical stories. In conclusion, Kavita Kane is renowned for her ability to elevate the voices and storylines of underrepresented and underappreciated female characters, highlighting their dignity and strength. Kane pays tribute to these characters' legacy by giving them a more complex and nuanced reinvention.

Thus we conclude that both the writers advocates the broad mindset of Indian culture regarding the status of women in our ancient period. Through these characters authors are presenting an example for young generation to develop ethical values towards women. Our history advocates through the evidences given by our epics, puranas, our culture, our roots and many more about the strong pillars of society namely women. In Indian culture, women's responsibilities and position are complex and varied. Today's irony is that modern India is still working toward gender equality and female empowerment. The trajectory of women's experiences in India is one of continuous growth and obstacles. This article will be perhaps helpful to change mindset of coming generation and will find new pathway for researchers towards the richness of Indian culture and understand the position of women in past and current scenario.

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