

**EXQUISITENESS AS A WEAPON AGAINST ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE:  
IN SHOBHA DE'S NOVELS**

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**ABSTRACT**

In a patriarchal male-dominated society it is usually the man who exercises all power and it is under his guidance and directions that a woman is expected to act and follow. But today's modern women as described by Shobha De in her novels, are well aware of the fact that it's a man's world and he is more powerful because he is male since a long time. But they also knew that this powerful creature (man) has also a weakness and that is woman. Therefore, for their survival and making herself economically powerful, women have learned the art of using their exquisiteness as their weapon. From ancient time women are considered as inferior and since they are oppressed from birth. The present article describes the protagonists of Shobha De who learn the weakness of men to redeem to their own advantage. They are cunning, coquettish, and demanding. These women are selfish and narcissistic as they use their beauty to attain economic power.

**KEYWORDS:** Economic Dependence, Exquisiteness, Patriarchy