

EXPLORING IDENTITY CRISIS IN NAYANTARA SAHGAL'S WRITING THE DAY IN SHADOW

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ABSTRACT

It was the brilliant Vedic era when Indian women were honored as Goddesses Lakshmi, Durga and Saraswati and put on the pedestals of glory, and so went the saying 'Yatra Naryastu Pujyante, Ramante Tatra Devta' where woman are worshiped, God resides. In other words, it was the matriarchal society, with the woman having her own prerogatives or better to say, there was hardly a line of demarcation between a man and a woman. With the advent of civilization, rules changed, norms changed, even the dogmas, so did the society with human values taking a strident turn to those prevalent before. The 'Nari tu Narayani', woman worshiped as goddess turned out to be a slave in the hands of her male counterparts, faced social taboos and even indignations. Gradually she started losing her liberty, priority and liabilities. In fact she started losing her own identity in the course of time and became a mere puppet dancing to the tunes of the patriarchs.

KEYWORDS: *Lakshmi, Durga and Saraswati and put on the pedestals of glory, and so went the saying 'Yatra Naryastu Pujyante, Ramante Tatra Devta'*