

## THE THEMES OF SHAVIAN DRAMA: A BRIEF STUDY

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper presents a brief description on the various themes in the works of George Bernard Shaw, one of the greatest Irish playwrights. In his plays, Shaw presented his views on various social evils and other political, religious, economic problems. His plays are basically discussions on the mental reactions of people towards certain problems, and are therefore known as the problem plays. His aim in writing plays was not the story telling or entertaining an audience; rather, he wanted to draw the attention of people to various evils and problems prevailing in society. He considered females as the superior beings who help in the Creative Evolution by giving birth to children and thus support the Life Force as is presented in his play, Man and Superman. He did not have faith in the Christian religion as he felt that the teachings given by the Church were far away from the teachings given by Christ. His religious views have been presented in the play, Saint Joan. In Candida, Shaw presented the concept of New Woman who makes a sensible choice in between her husband and the young poet. In another play, Arms and the Man, he exposes the hollowness of romantic love and undue glorification of war. As his drama had lot of ideas and the conflict of ideas, therefore, it was also known as the Drama of Ideas. As his plays had long dialogues, his characters were called talking characters. Also, due to long introductions within the brackets, his plays were also called pseudo-novels. He wanted to end war, violence and other evils from society and preferred peace and prosperity everywhere. He was also known as the social reformer.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Life Force, Drama of Ideas, Pseudo-Novel, Problem Plays, New Woman*