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### Depiction of Male Figures by Indian Women Novelists

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**Abstract:** Women novelists gained foothold during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and during that time the readers started accepting the works of the female novelists. Influenced by feminist approaches, they were refreshing because they voiced the issues faced by the women all around the globe. They were completely different from the male novelists of their age. The males generally in some way or the other favoured patriarchy and their novels mainly focused on males who were presented as being superior to females, whereas the females vouched for equality. They had a balanced portrayal of both male and female characters. Their works were a mirror to the injustice done by the double standards of the society. In Indian

contemporary literature also, the women novelists started appearing as forerunners. Women novelists from India are out to add new dimensions to English Literature of India and also to that of the world.

**Keywords:** Male characters, Female novelists, Patriarchy.

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#### **Introduction:**

The works of female writers during early centuries were not given much consideration, probably because of male chauvinism. They were considered as immature writers with soft-themed approaches, whereas the male writings were considered to be far better.

In a patriarchal world, women in all fields had to face difficulties but under the leadership of a few writers and their outstanding works, women became competitors to men and started producing some excellent works. With the wave of feminism, the women writers gained a strong foothold in this highly patriarchal field. The male writers were inclined to present the males as superior and somehow justified and encouraged the patriarchal standards of the society. But the female writers believed in equality and so presented both the males and females in both shades.