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
1. Rekha monikutum

Depiction of the Environment in a few selected poems of Kamala Das



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K. K. Khandarkar
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3. Depiction of the Environment in a Few Selected Poems of Kamala Das

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Introduction

Kamala Das (1934-2009) is known as the mother of Modern Indian English Poetry. She has great contribution to the growth and development of the Indian English poetry, with a style of free verse based on originality and personal experiences. The theme of environment is very much reflecting in Kamala Das's Poetry. She is a feminist icon who protests against the patriarchal society of the present age. Environment in a sense: use of natural objects in her poetry as well as socio- cultural environment. This paper focuses the environmental elements in Kamala Das's poetry.

1.01 Objectives

1. To study the socio-cultural environment in Kamala Das life and achievements.
2. To highlight the use of nature in the selected poems of Kamala Das.

1.02 Methodology

my paper calls for descriptive method. It is based on secondary data.

2.00 The socio-cultural environment in Kamala Das life and achievement

The socio-cultural environment is variably seen in Kamala Das's life and achievement from the very beginning of her childhood period. Her childhood begins at the Nalapat House, her paternal; she was born at Punnayukulam in southern Malabar in Kerela on the 31st of March, 1934. Kamala schooling was mainly at home. She had born in a literary family. As her mother, Nalapatt Balamani Amma was a renowned Malayalam poetess was married to V.M. Nair who was an employee in an automobile firm in Calcutta and also the former Managing editor of the Malayalam daily 'Mathrubhumi'. Her uncle, Nalapatt Narayana Menon was a writer and translator. Her caste provided Kamala Das matrilineal background. Matrilineal in Kerela provided women the basic framework for a superior position. They have given security and freedom of making choice and action what was not availability by women in the patriarchal societies at that present time. Kamala Das was disappointed by seeing that being a member of such a family her


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mother surrendered herself to the male ego of her husband (Kamala Das's Father) who always tried to establish authority. This is what the reason she was totally against of it. Same happens with her grandmother, though her grandmother was also a Nair woman had no freedom of making any choice. Therefore it can be said that her childhood run under the suppression as same happened to her mother and grandmother under the shade of the Nalapat House. In that environment she was brought up which come to knowledge by looking back to her parental house.

Kamala Das at the age of 15 she was compelled to marry as a wish of her father's choice to a banker, K. Madhava Das. According to Kamala Das, her husband was a lusty man who paid no attention to the fulfilment of his wife's emotional needs, thy suppressing her spirit which very clearly states in her writings. Like other woman writers of her age Kamala Das was expected to tame her talent to suit the comfort of her family, adding to the so-called society. Thus in her later life, Kamala Das break down the framework of marriage and sought for own self, recognition, identity.

Kamala Das has been starting in the writing world from her childhood period. It is because of her literary background family. She was home-schooled and most of her education came through extensive reading, and live experiences. Though she was from a rich literary background but she was not given opportunity to that level of writing or gets any strong support of it. Even after her married life nothing changed as to her parental. Her husband never support for her writings. Marriage plays a vital role in making her career as a writer due to her anger, protest development through ignorance of her art by those people around her. Madhava Das, her husband allowed her to write after she fulfilled her housewife duties. Thus, she started her writing career from the kitchen table. By these Kamala Das learned how to balance her passion for writing and family chores.

Kamala Das started writing in two languages – in Malayalam, her mother tongue and English. Under the pseudonym Madhavakutty she published her writings and Kamala Das for English writings. She along with other poets of her age, Kamala Das was at the forefront of a new movement in Indian English poetry, who gave a rise from the colonial experience to the personal issues of women which was remain ignorant for long. Throughout her writing career, she moves skillfully through the genres continuously like- poetry, fiction, and memoir. 'My Story' (1976), the most famous of her memoirs was written in English. She recounts her childhood in an artistic

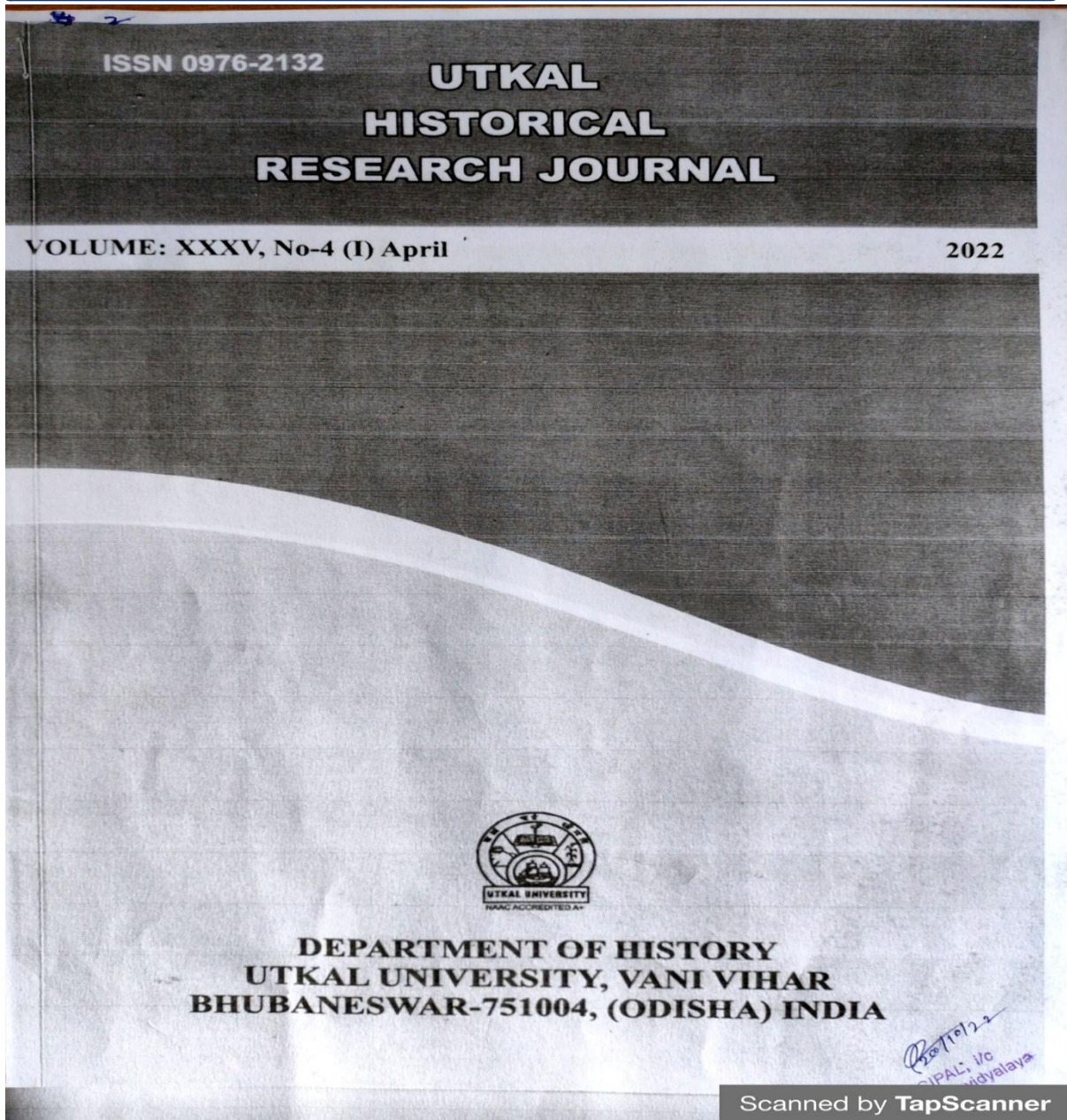

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1. Rekha Moni Kutum

Gender inequality- Rebellious note in some selected poems of Kamala Das



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GENDER INEQUALITY -REBELLIOUS NOTE IN SOME SELECTED POEMS OF KAMALA DAS

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ABSTRACT

The various gender issues and campaign for woman's emancipation, interests, privileges and identity form some important topics for discussion in feminist writings of the post-colonial period. Feminism, also named feminist movement or Women's Liberation Movement is a social movement that champions and demands for equal rights for womenfolk politically and in domestic area. Although the word 'feminism' is relatively modern, the disparities against which feminists raise their voice economic, legal, political and social restrictions on the fundamental rights of women have prevailed in all the alleys of history and in all the past civilizations. "Vindication of Rights of Woman" by Mary Wollstonecraft exercised a great influence in changing and moulding in new form the traditional roles of women as wives, mothers and homemakers. Judith Butler in her book *Gender Trouble* (1990) criticizes the distinction drawn by previous feminisms between biological sex and socially constructed gender. The champions of feminism question the legitimacy of patriarchal values in the society. The assumption that gender suppression is the main force of patriarchy is defined by them. The aims of feminist movement are to liberate women from the shackles of domesticity and subjugation. The feminist writers throw light on and condemn the predicament of women in the male dominated society by depicting the domestic atrocities and violence, the male ego, sexual harassment, etc. in their writings and thereby attempt to inculcate a sense of rebellion and self-identity in them.

Keywords: gender, feminism, poetry, etc.

Introduction:

Kamala Das, who is popular as a mother of Modern English Poetry as well as a rebellious women poet whose voice raised up for 'Gender equality', 'Identity', etc in the set rules of patriarchal society. Numerous post-colonial texts by female writers study the tension a gendered modernity and patriarchal structures in so-called theocratic societies face. While the post-colonial liberalism continued to maintain control over nation's women through cultural and fixing of dress, language use, marriage and divorce laws. Women's writing in postcolonial theocratic cultures has often depicted the link between oppression, patriarchy and religion in great detail. Kamala Das is the most representative feminist poet. Her themes make her poems greatly feminist. The Indian women writers of the modern era in their writings discuss about the gender iniquities and their oppression in the male-dominated society. Among them, Kamala Das's name was the first among the Indian Women poets who made an advance towards feminist mode and boldly raise her voice against the conservative and patriarchal society, asserting her identity at the same time.

Objectives:

- To extend Kamala Das' concerns with gender inequality and the various complexities of the life of a woman that are highlighted in Kamala Das's Poetry.
- To study Kamala Das' poetry in her metaphysical life where she listens only to her soul.
- This paper is also an attempt to discuss on Kamala Das 'conflict between passivity and rebellion against the male-oriented universe.

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