
HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY IN SHOBHAA DE'S *SECOND THOUGHTS*

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Abstract

The concept of hegemonic masculinity has been used in gender studies to explain the men's power over women. Hegemonic masculinity in the empirical case demonstrates the hegemonic masculinity shifts and adopts the new practices to enable men to retain power over others. Shobhaa De depicts the new urban woman in a patriarchal hegemony in her novels. She also projects hegemonic masculinity in her novel *Second Thoughts*. She also projects the extra-marital affairs of women to break the traditional and moral values of society. *Second Thoughts* is the story of an Indian girl, Maya who is victimized as a silent sufferer in the clutches of matrimonial bond.

Keywords: *Hegemonic masculinity, marriage, patriarchy, the quest for identity*

Shobhaa De is assailed by most of the critics as an ultra-modern Indian woman writer in the literary world. She discusses the very sensitive strand of human life in her novels. People judge that women are inferior to men because of their different sex. The people of the Orthodox family in India used to criticize her for her open discussion on sexual matters. Gender activists seek to change the relationship of men with women which is based on the concept of hegemonic masculinity. Hegemonic masculinity was introduced as a concept of understanding gender as a dynamic relational power, between the diligence of male power and the potential to change the social structure. It poses the global dictionary of power and manipulation by focusing on certain passages or clauses and metaphorical references present in the novel which reflects the culture, norms and social beliefs of the Indian community. It takes a deep insight into Indian cultural diversity, unequal distribution of power like gender discrimination, racism, and marginalization. Shobhaa De has become the symbol of highlighting different perspectives of woman's freedom