

The main objectives of the present study are to enquire thematic concerns, women temperament, characteristics and traits in male-female protagonists and other sociological aspects of male dominated society in selected novels of Kamala Markandaya and Bessie Head. Kamala Markandaya's A Handful of Rice, Two Virgins and The Golden Honeycomb are incorporated for the study. Bessie Head's When Rains Clouds Gather, Maru, A Question of Power are incorporated for the study.

The present study, mainly thematic study encompasses a comparison of woman image, self-identity, social status, economic empowerment, cultural conflicts, psychological conflicts, feminist approach and woman transformation reflected in female protagonists and sub-protagonists in Kamala Markandaya's A Handful of Rice, Two Virgins and The Golden Honeycomb. The same elements are also examined of Bessie Head's When Rains Clouds Gather, Maru, A Question of Power in context of female protagonists and sub-protagonists. The study also conducted for elements such as male image and his domination in the society, social behavior and powers.

The basic theme of A Handful of Rice is a clash among Eastern values or Sanskaras and Western approaches closer to life. Kamala Markandaya may accept and apprehend with this social environment or may additionally rise up in opposition to it, but its image is certain to be seen there. She does not longer deliver any solution as an ethical novelist does, but simplest attempts to carry out a social hassle inside the fashion of a social realist. Her best benefits are her language, phrases and expressions.

Two Virgins deals with the theme of moral degradation in our society where man exploits man for selfish purposes. The novel also deals with the east-west theme in the sense that there is a contrast between traditionalism and modernism, between city life and village life. Thematically, the novel is not a sub-standard piece, as critics have called it. Kamala Markandaya's The Golden Honeycomb reveals at once her

extraordinary sense of conscious realism and historicity unmatched in Indian English Fiction and only rarely evident in the contemporary British fiction. In a nutshell, it can be said that tension between tradition and modernity, rural poverty and hunger, conflict between rural and urban culture, East-west encounter, industrialization and its impacts on traditional life, psychological maladjustments and husband-wife relationship problems of immigrants and racial antagonism and national upsurge, material vs spiritual values are sub-themes or expressions of all the three selected novels in the present study. It can be concluded from the thematic study of these novels written by Kamala Markandaya that human relations are backbone of human society. Exploitation is the most evil in the society which leads to poverty. The poverty leads to hunger and hunger leads to fatalism. The fatalism leads to degradation and degradation leads to damage human relations in the society. This is the cycle. One must understand this cycle to be responsible social animal in this world.