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**Bond's Woman in Socio-cultural Ambience**

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**Abstract:**

In the present research paper the researcher tries his metal best focusing on the writer's foray of depicting woman character socio-cultural arena which has been one of the formidable traits of his writing. As, woman has been living with all sorts of shackles and tensions in this male dominated society where a very few importance is given her as a human being. With the various aspects the researcher illustrates the different facets of her personality.

**Key Words:** Foray, Socio-cultural, Formidable, Shackles, Dominated

As, the human being leaves in the society, once Aristotle said that, "Man is a social animal" without society man is like a fish without water; a body without soul and mind". In the pre-historic period man like vagabond, wandering aimlessly in search of food, water and hunting, by the time he settled down particularly on the bank of the river, near the water sources in a small groups and that was the beginning of new human civilization; according to the different religions of the world the story of the evolution of the human being was told differently. The human culture was come into existence due to the social awareness and collective thinking.

The different groups of people formed their own culture and social taboos, rights, rituals and many more things. Amongst these all ups and downs a part of society suffered a lot for ages; and it is nothing but woman who suffers from these social and cultural challenges continuously. By the time the concept of family had been introduced by the social behaviour of human in which woman took the charge of household chores. As time passes the society was formed and then step by step the social status of both man and woman had been decided.

In the present research paper the focus is given on the socio cultural status of woman, depiction of woman in socio-cultural background is the foray of many writers in literature; this brings a huge amount of data available to them. In Indian society woman is suffered at both level-social and culture; she is caught between two tools; that makes her much vigorous to face ensuing dangers lying ahead.

*The study of women characters in social and cultural context can be a revelation to his readers; the benevolent hill writer portraying women in dark shade comes as a shock and surprise.*  
([www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net))

As detailed above Ruskin, coming from the hilly region of Indian sub-continent depicts woman light and dark shade needed to be focused on this distinguished style of an Anglo-Indian author. Precisely, the hegemonic nature of male resulted into his superiority in all spheres of life, such as: Social, culture, religion, polity and economy. The role of man has been depicted and illustrated on the canvas differently and one of them is Ruskin Bond- an Anglo-Indian writer who knows inners and outs of Indian culture and social structure, and this affiliation helps him to observe keenly the namby-pamby life style of Indian woman. He is also well versed with Indian languages that are seen in his using many Hindi and Urdu words in his writings. So far as his knowledge of Indian culture is concerned he is like Indian author who are the product of this soil.

The socio-cultural study opens up the new dimensions and ways to find the place of woman in Indian context. There are so many writers in Indian English Literature who focused on these dire consequences of woman's life. It becomes clear that the woman in India has been being crushed and neglected by extremely male dominated society and it happened for ages and ages. The literature of the world is full of male writer with the focus on male centred issues. The socio-cultural arena that was not her cup of tea but now a day this scenario is being changed due to the revolutions and awareness took place globally and the result of the initiatives influenced the life of woman in terms of opportunity to participate in every walk of life. Due to the more liberal thoughts and thinking in the democratic nations the role of a woman is getting widen. The science, modern education and technology paved the way for her emancipation to great extent. And Ruskin Bond is no exception to this growing impact of more liberal thoughts throughout the globe.





The life of women survived and resisted below the tyrannical mechanism of a closed society. Taking into consideration the complexity of human life, cultures and different structures of values, the woman's question, despite basic solidarity, needs to be confronted in relation to the socio-cultural context.

*Abilas Nayak comments on suppression of women as follows, "Indian women, unlike the western counterparts, have always been socially and psychologically suppressed, sexually colonized and biologically subjected against a male- dominant social set-up." ( qtd. in Devshanthi S. 33)*

To analyse the role of socio-cultural ambience on woman and her status various aspects and parameters are to be observed:

**1. Age for Marriage:**

Practice of early-marriage in India is one of the most distinguished features practising in traditional India. Unlike the western countries, marriages in India are often arranged either by the elders or by the parents for the youngsters. The marriages used to be decided by the parents and elders leaving no question of consensus for them. This easily split the personality of woman for ages and ages. This premature burden would bring the unusual and unexpected tension to the girl who did not prepare for it.

**2. Double Standard of Society:**

The role of woman has been adulating from one extreme point to another one i.e. placing her in the position of goddess and on the other hand attributing her most derogatory status in society. Indian women are the embodiment of love, compassion, and hope, patience, Perseverance, endurance and integration. Woman has suffered through multifarious ages of tradition and transformation, but their status and voice remain a question of discussion.

**3. Festive Ridden Role:**

Ben Jonson said, 'not for an age but for all times'. Indian women underwent transformation throughout their existence and uphold the worth by keeping abreast with tradition and culture of a society."

Festivity is one of the very important factors that affect the role of woman-by bonding and confining her into the threshold bound role. Festivals played very vital role in engaging woman with age old tradition and peeps her busy throughout her life.

**4. The Role of Myths and Legend:**

Since the dawn of the civilization Indian woman has been a myth and a legend. Both in literature and life the role as a wife and as mother overlap with each other. Wifehood is to be followed by motherhood in most societies. World religious ancient scriptures and literary texts hail woman as wife with great significance.

In socio-cultural connection, the important facts pertaining to the role of a woman as wife in various religions deserve to be noticed. The word wife has much more depth and there are still many more aspects related to woman as a wife via her needs, aspirations, anxieties and her strategies of life need to be unravelled and explored.

In addition to this, Bond weaves stories uniquely around Indian subjects such as Untouchability, dacoits, the caste system, shikar, expedition, a melange of different culture in one, and various aspects of Indian mythology and superstitions. The novels are necessarily set in easily identifiable small Indian towns and cities. Even when he creates stories around universal themes such as romance and mystery, the setting is always Indian.

**5. Ruskin a Truth Teller:**

Thus, his stories are firmly grounded in an Indian ethos. He has got clues of ground realities of India from his own experience living with common men; this enables him to understand Indian customs and values at deeper level, as his knowledge of India is not superficial but very deep and true. He usage his akin knowledge in the depiction of woman character with utmost effect and skill. In Blue Umbrella the protagonist Binya leads her life in the lap of the Himalayan ranges, following the life style of the region.

**Conclusion:**

The presentation of woman in socio-cultural ambience is one of the best aspects discussed in literature. Ruskin with his magical style woven the woman's various facets on the canvas. The impact of tradition, taboos, and custom is easily seen. Ruskin elaborated with his lucid and straightforward style by conglomerating both British and Indian culture into one unified culture. Woman has been being



largely affected with Social mores and Culture, which remains more or less the same throughout the globe. The threshold of the ambience put the shackles of slavery in her legs either of psychological, physical or visible or non-visible. The writer with great affection depicted his woman character, who has given the same important as her male counterpart does.

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