



**ICNSCET20- International Conference on New Scientific Creations  
in Engineering and Technology**

**Voices of Voiceless Women: A Study of Shashi Deshpande’s “That  
Long Silence” and “The Binding Vine”.**

**V.NARMATHANANDHINI,**

Assistant Professor of English,

Department of English,

Nadar Saraswathi College of Arts and Science,

Theni.

**Abstract:**

The world couldn't leave the female society to live their life as their own. Every woman suffers a lot by the dominated people, that was in the name of high society people, senior worker, father, husband or brother etc., The male chauvinistic society dumb the women by using many violent acts. Women society always portrays portrayed as a voiceless, fugitive, angst, oppression and silence creature. Here, the paper shoots the male chauvinists for their violent treatment given to the female characters Jaya and Urmila. 'That Long Silence' and 'The Binding Vine' are the most famous and examples for the title 'Treatment of violence'.

**Key Words:** Subjugation, Patriarchal society, Male chauvinist, Voiceless, Silence, feelings, Mourning.

Literature is the apt medium to reflect the life. Through the literary works and its characters, the people can easily analyse their own image and characters. Shashi Deshpande is the great feministic writer. After the Independence, India has its own English writers, who wrote about the struggles and sufferings of India's freedom fight as well as wrote about the female society, which always oppressed by the dominated people. Male chauvinists dominated the

women by the name of tradition, culture and marginalization. She draws the female characters and their life beautifully. Her feministic works give the great impact in the dominated society. She constantly argues about the voiceless and silence situation of the women. Shashi Deshpande is the prolific Indian women writer in English. She wrote many novels and fictions, which has the main argument about the women. 'That Long Silence' and 'The Binding vine' are the award winning and notable works of Shashi Deshpande. Both novels argue about the various violent acts on female society. 'Jaya' and 'Urmila' are the main protagonists. Jaya leaves her own desires and dreams and runs behind her husband's life. She doesn't raise her voice against her husband. Likewise Urmila suffers a lot by her family members. She also has the angst and oppressive acts, which are given by the male chauvinists society.

'Subjugation' is the word, which is always related to the women in the society. Many women subjugated by the patriarchal society. Shashi Deshpande is the prominent writer, who always gives the voice to support the female subjugated society. Jaya is the protagonist of the novel 'That Long Silence'. Shashi Deshpande vigorously tried to shadow the humiliating and stifling environment where females feel themselves fettered. She always posturized the exploitation of women by men. Women have only weapon that is 'Silence'. They won't voice out for the injustice given by the patriarchal society. If they raised their voice against the dominated people, the society would suppress them. This is the story of Jaya and Mohan. Jaya is the writer who tried to write her own life. She is the educated women and also a writer. But, she won't break her silence for seven years. She ticked a pit to burning her desires and wishes. She compromises her own life for her husband, children and relatives etc., Thus Jaya moves from a sphere of silence, enters into a phase of balance of powers of sexes. This is her real conquest and liberation. Jaya moves from being a person who can never think of herself beyond as a wife and mother to a person who confidently asserts herself. Jaya succumbs and surrenders to Mohan without revolting. Silently she wills to his wills.

"The Binding Vine" is one more the greatest novel by Shashi Deshpande. Here, Urmila is the Protagonist of the story. She is a lecturer in the college and also a wife of Kishore. She lost her daughter and mourning for it. She will not accept the console given by her brother, mother and mother-in-law. She can't come out from the loss of her daughter. In the meantime, Kishore came out from his daughter's lost and led a routine life. But Urmila changed her character in physically as well as mentally after the death of her daughter. Urmila suppressed by her husband and he won't understand her thoughts and feelings. Kishore pulled her into their routine life. But, she can't bear that act towards her by her husband. Mira is another subjugated character in this novel. She is the mother of Kishore. Mira loved her husband for many years and married him. She lived with him for four years. After the birth of Kishore, she died. But, her husband won't show his mourning for her death. Immediately he married another woman to lead his routine life. As a female, Urmila mourns her daughter's death. But, Kishore father didn't Like Urmila. Mira and Urmila are the two main characters, who are suppressed and oppressed by the male chauvenists.

Thus, the novels "That Long Silence" and "The Binding Vine", showed the voiceless female characters. Even though these female characters are educated, they won't shoe their inner feelings and thoughts. They dominated by their husband and relatives. At the end, they may realize their desires and wishes. But, the society will not allow them to come out from their hardships and struggles.

References:

1. Deshpande, Shashi. *“That Long Silence”*. New Delhi: Penguin Publishers. 2000. *“The Binding Vine”*. New Delhi: Penguin Publishers. 2000.print.
2. <http://www.google.com/shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>.

