

**“RESONATING VOICES: FEMALE SOLIDARITY AND AGENCY IN SHASHI
DESHPANDE'S *A SMALL REMEDIES***

Dr. J. Paul Jayakar

Research Scholar, Department of English, the American College, Madurai, Tamilnadu, India

Received: 06 Jan 2019

Accepted: 10 Jan 2019

Published: 21 Jan 2019

ABSTRACT

*Shashi Deshpande's novel *A Small Remedies* is a painful examination of women's life inside a patriarchal system, making it an engaging topic for feminist critique. This article analyzes the complex representation of female unity and empowerment in the novel, utilizing significant feminist literary theories. The narrative centers around Madhuri, the protagonist, as she confronts societal expectations and strives to establish a career in singing. This emphasis on her struggle underscores the themes of resistance and self-actualization. The assistance and guidance Madhuri receives from other women highlight the need of female solidarity, a concept emphasized by bell hooks as essential for combating patriarchal tyranny. In addition, the novel explores the concept of intersectionality, examining how social class and caste overlap with gender to intensify the oppression experienced by women. Examining the theme of voice and suppression, as interpreted by Hélène Cixous, highlights the wider pursuit of individual expression and independence. Deshpande skillfully combines these themes to provide a subtle analysis of cultural conventions while also highlighting the strength and empowerment of women. This research highlights the novel's significance in feminist literature and its connection to the ongoing discussion on gender equality and identity.*

KEYWORDS: *Feminist Literary Theory, Female Solidarity, Women's Agency, Patriarchal Society, Intersectionality, Voice and Silencing, Gender Roles, Resistance*