

Systematic Review of Literature of a Critique of the Representation of Muslim Women in the Works of Selected Indian Muslim Women Novelists

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: *An overview of Muslim women in selected Indian English novelists' works. The majority of Muslim women writers' works have been interpreted based on pre-existing notions. Muslim women authors face unique limitations. Muslim women authors are similarly biased, as they are trained to adhere to specific literary conventions. This literature survey attempts to demonstrate the strength of the Muslim women authors' voices as underlined in the critical reviews.*

Objectives: *This research attempts to examine the voice of Muslim women expressing their desire to free themselves from the shackles of conventions as expressed in literary compositions. With words as their most powerful weapon, these free-thinking writers have emerged from their conservative cocoons and are ready to take on the world. There is a wide range of perspectives on Muslim ideology and identity in the books reviewed.*

Design/Methodology/Approach: *The Review of Literature is carried out with the secondary data gathered from educational websites and written publications. The research will be undertaken using Research Journals, Doctoral Thesis, and Websites. This Qualitative Research is carried out by studying and interpreting existing material on the subject using the keywords representation of Muslim women, perspective, horizon, and customized constraints.*

Findings /Results: *Reviewing Muslim women writers as feminists and trend-setters, rather than simply as Muslim women, this literary analysis sheds a new light on their works and perspectives on the genre. There are no limits to what this Review of Literature is trying to say about a liberated woman writer.*

Originality/ Value: *This review of literature gives Muslim women writers' identities and social responsibilities a direct voice by allowing their words to speak for them. It gives a good account of the authors and their comprehension of fact and fiction.*

Paper Type: *A review paper.*

Keywords: Critique of Muslim women, Perspective, Horizon, Customized limitations, ABCD analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION :

India has seen the advent of Muslims by the seafarers, even before the Arab army invaded India by land. Ever since there has been significant integration of Muslim and Hindu cultures. Muslims have played a dominant role in the social, economic, political and cultural aspects of India. According to Ahmed (Ahmed, et al. (1986). [1]), socio-economic impact on society. If one observes the Muslims of Arab Nations and the Muslims of India there is a vast cultural difference. So many practices that an Indian Muslim follows have no significance in Islam. Indian Muslims in their social practices are half Hindus. Be it the dowry system which is totally reversed, an Indian Muslim's attire like wearing a saree, the social norms she follows are altogether different from the practices of the Muslim women of many of the Muslim nations. These are all indications of the integration of Muslim and Hindu cultures in the

Indian society. Islam does not forbid women from education or engaging themselves in any type of trade and industry. According to Papanek (Papanek, et al. (1973). [2]). The Purdah system was followed by both Muslims and by some Hindus and is still followed. Indian Society lacking proper education both before and after independence was in pandemonium which added to the misery of women's status as a whole in society.

Male dominance with patriarchal hegemony was a common aspect of Indian Society which worsened the condition of conservative Muslim women. Both rich and poor Muslim women had to suffer problems, with the conservative norms adding fuel to their dilemma. According to Jayawardena (Jayawardena, et al. (1996). [3]). The Muslim women endured the pangs of being Muslim associated with the social restrictions making their condition pathetic. The challenges they faced in terms of education, marriage and family life were discussed by many women writers cording to Al-Mannai (Al-Mannai, et al. (2010).[4]). The writers who voiced these issues were cornered and their works were misinterpreted worsening the situation for the Muslim women writers as well as giving a wrong outlook of Muslim women in general. According to Ashraf (Ashraf, et al. (2012). [5]). But changing times and education both in terms of religious and non-religious topics, especially the women being educated has brought a vast difference to this outlook of the oppressed Muslim women. According to Lambert (Lambert, et al. (2013). [6]). The research tries to highlight the strength of these women writers by giving a new perspective to their voices. It also interprets their works in a way that empowers the Muslim women, who have long been stigmatised and branded in the name of religion and gender.

Significance of the Study: The research articles/ documents related to fictional studies show the readers the strength of Muslim women who are suppressed under the name of Patriarchy and taboos.

2. OBJECTIVES :

The main objective of this study is to undertake a secondary literature review and present summarised data on the topic of A Critique of the Representation of Muslim Women in the works of select Indian Muslim Women Novelists. According to Noreen (Noreen, et al. (2023). Various interpretations of Fictional works, comparative study of the old and new fictional interpretations, and their implications have been taken up for review. This study has helped in determining the research gap on which the present study is made.

3. METHODOLOGY :

The researcher has reviewed almost twenty-two research articles, five books and five research theses for a master's degree. Soft copies of some of the books were accessed through <https://z-lib.org/>, www.pdfdrive.net, and <https://ndl.iithgp.ac.in>. The online search was made to collect the database through Google Scholar. The studies reviewed are from peer-reviewed journals, original research papers, and national and international publications. The researcher has referred to and followed APA Manual for the analysis of the research work.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW :

- 4.1 Sultana's Dream by Begum Rokeya Shakawath
- 4.2 Zohra by Zeenuth Futhully
- 4.3 Sunlight on a Broken Column by Atia Hosain
- 4.4 The Mad Woman of Jogare by Sohaila Abdulali
- 4.5 My Past is a Foreign Country by Zeba Talkhani

5. RELATED PUBLICATION :

Nida Armani in her Research article published on the Wire writes that Purdah and Polygamy offers a scathing critique of patriarchy in the subcontinent. It's the first full length fiction to be written in pre-partition India by a Muslim Woman. The oddity of the choice of language is justified by a literary critic, Muneeza Shamsie whose essay is attached to the novel, where she writes, English then gave an 'intellectual Space' to explore controversial ideas to avoid religious controversies. Since the girls were not allowed to study English then, Purdah and Polygamy was also an act of rebellion by the author Iqbalunnisa. The novel has an introduction by Jessica Berman a language teacher, Department of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Maryland. The reprint of the novel was welcomed because it was available only in nine libraries around the world. The story of the novel which falls

under social realism, centres on a Muslim household according to the author (Noreen, et al. (2023). [7]). The story unfolds in an unnamed city in the family's residence called Dilkusha. The writer employs sarcasm while describing the privileges afforded by men. According to the author, (Begum et al. (2021). [8]). Purdah and Polygamy provide two main conflicts. It provides a sense of tension around gender issues within elite Muslim household in the years of colonial rule and also it refers to subcontinent readers as whole. The female characters are portrayed somewhat flat, uncritically accepting their situation. However, Maghbool a female character appears to be a complex figure outspoken and independent, who challenges the restrictions of purdah by meeting regularly with the male cousin. According to the author (Minault et al. (1985). [9]) Though the practice of polygamy and purdah restrictions have lessened since the novel was written. According to the author, (Altay, et al. (2019). [10]). The basic features of patriarchy, within families in matters of education and employment, financial and economy in status of women still remain the same. Hussain's novel depicts "Classic Patriarchy", the greatest tragedy resulting from patriarchal system, which pitches men and women in conflict with each other (Kandiyoti, et al. (1988). [11]).

Written by Ambreen Hai and published in the Herald this Research article titled Adultery behind Purdah and the politics of Indian Muslim Nationalism in Zeenuth Futehally's *Zohra* discusses the first novel written and published by an Indian Muslim Woman. The book was promoted with a foreword by E.M. Forster and the first edition included a note by the then Indian Foreign secretary K.P.S. Menon. Ambreen writes that both Forster and Menon had not given any idea about the scandalous, daring and radical questioning aspect of *Zohra*, a married woman who commits adultery by falling in love with her brother-in-law being in a Muslim joint family. Nor they recognised the Muslims who stayed back after partition of India who participated in the anticolonial struggle for free unified India. According to Abbas (Abbas, et al. (2022). [12]) The article critiques the system of purdah and arranged marriage where women are made victims. The article highlights the combination on which the novel worked, the private and the personal, the public and political insisting that Indian Muslims should be given certain privileges on the rightful claim as Indian citizens after Indian Independence. According to Qadeer (Qadeer, et al. (2011). [13]). Set in the 1920's the novel is a semi autobiography of a girl growing up in aristocratic Muslim family who is coerced to give up her intellectual aspirations to get married. *Zohra's* reluctance to the arranged marriage shows her rebellious nature. But nevertheless, she submits to the marriage in anguish giving up her dreams of pursuing the artistic poetic training or to get involved in politics or to get married to a person of her own choice. Futehally through *Zohra's* bitter articulations tries to raise the readers consciousness which women have to endure in patriarchal household. According to Fernald (Fernald, et al. (2013). [14]). The novel exposes the suppressed feelings and desires of *Zohra*. Her parents' house being a centre for Indian Muslim poetic traditions shows the privileges enjoyed by the aristocratic and at the same time the women having to witness it behind closed curtains shows the limitations women have in the male dominant family. *Zohra* longs for politics and nationalistic consciousness as she sees Gandhi's promise of gender equality promising, which however is suppressed. Futehally's *Zohra* argues for reformation on two fronts, in favour of women's education, opportunity and freedom of choice. Secondly it suggests Indian Muslims to be recognised for their loyalty and rights as Indian citizens which is portrayed through Hamid Zohar's brother-in-law who dedicates himself to the anticolonial Nationalist movement. Futehally's work is shaped by feminism and nationalism. The words used by Futehally does not come under typical post-colonial fiction since its language is influenced by undertones of Urdu and other cultural aspects. *Zohra* is described as daring and rebellious woman who challenges the normal by expressing her desire as a girl and as a married woman. *Zohra* and Hamid try to find fulfillment of their desire by sharing their political ideas for the betterment of the Muslim community. The indulgence in politics and social Work is an effort to escape from their personal affair. That *Zohra* does not sublimate her desire is another way of making known by the novelist that an Indian Muslim Woman irrespective of her social status is suppressed by the whole system and it is not the individual aspect which refrains her from being rebellious in spite of her anguish. *Zohra's* death with promises of Hamid looking after her child and her request to avoid her kind of fate is a promise of hope to the future generation Muslim women. Hamid here is a promise of systematic change that may be brought by a democratic secular nation to subscribe to gender ideologies and nationalistic politics.

Fathima Siddiqui in her research article published in the Indian Review titled 'The World That Was... A Cultural Study of Atia Hosain's *Sunlight on a broken column*' discusses the story of an upper-class

Muslim family in transition, their traditions, customs, festivities, relations and tensions. The three parts of the novel reveal the changes the family goes through in three generations. Making known the changes that take place in the society and nation as a whole. According to Usman (Usman, et al. (2019). [15]). The realistic portrayal of Hosain's characters make them come alive in the minds of the reader through their conversation and actions. Hosain's characters are a mixture of good and evil. The realistic and psychological aspects of the characters with their individuality are universal. Hosain conveys the political and personal turmoil that marked the partition of India with the abolition of Muslim land holding and feudal system. The novel describes the reality of the past making the reader feel the glamorous and fascinating world of the Taluqdar in colonial India. It showcases the turmoil the Indian Muslims go through during the Indian independence struggle. According to Shelly (Shelly, et al. (2023). [16]). The lives of three generations of the family of Taluqdars is shown in the novel. Each character reflects the customs and culture of their generation. Each generation is different in manner and habits from the other generation. The first generation had dignity in their character, and their family's honour was all that mattered to them. While the second generation was a mixture of old and new. The third generation of characters are more colourful and livelier as they question the social hypocrisy associated with the high society. The novel reflects the culture, and customs that were responsible for shaping the personalities of the characters. The novel is just not a domestic saga but gives insight into the social and economic realities of the time.

Rukun Advani's article published in India Today titled Book Review: Shama Futehully's 'Tara Lane' is a semi autobiographical work of the novelist. Tara Lane reflects the picture of the privileged India and Shama's political concerns regarding India. In the novel Shama writes about common everyday things a reader can identify with. Tara Lane reminds the simple things lost in the recess of time. The protagonist Tahira in Tara Lane symbolises independent thinking women. According to Rajan (Rajan, et al. (2013). [17]). Tahira's story with her internal dilemma is soul searching for any woman. Tahira grows up in a Bombay household surrounded by English literature books and servants. Shama through Tahira highlights her nostalgic memories of her upbringing giving the readers a view of Bombay as well as the rich aristocracy. Though brought up in a protected life as a girl, things change after she gets married and becomes mother. She gets to know the difference of having to adjust to her husband's needs. According to Jackson (Jackson, et al. (2011). [18]). The motto of every Indian household in terms of marriage and financial security is discussed through Tahira's dilemma. And it is this conflict in her mind which dramatizes the soul-searching reality.

Aishwarya Subramanian's review article published in Strange Horizons titled 'Sultana's Dream by Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain' is the earliest known book of science fiction in India. Most of the examples deal with the idea of science rather than progress of science. According to Roye (Roye, et al. (2009). [19]). It is a 'Feminist Utopia' with science as the Centre point. Most of the narration is naive and can be taken lightly. The outcome of Rokeya's dream was the result of having to learn to write in secret with the help of her brother and sister and to be taught again in secret by her husband. The story depicts women as far more fit for education than men. Women of the University are portrayed as the real heroes of this story who save the country through their commitment to science unlike men who waste their time on bombs. 'Sultana's Dream' deals with gender essentialism where women are portrayed as productive and virtuous and men as warmongers, wasting time smoking cheroots and as timid homebodies. According to Sarker (Sarker, et al. (2000). [20]). Framing the story as 'Dream' allows the novelist to make it as absurd as she wants. The end of the story with the Queen making a statement that her people would not take other people's land voices Hosain's concern are not only with gender issues but includes the Indian political condition.

Loveleen in her review of literature titled 'Socio-Political dialogue in Diaspora writing today. A study of Sohaila Abdulali's Year of The Tiger' gives a new interpretation of Diasporic writing. She discusses issues of religion, class and race and other inter personal concerns of the settlers abroad. Who are not treated like refugees but find a home in the land where they settle inspite of the limitations as foreigners.? The year of Tiger is a Manhattan novel which showcases occasional visits to India. The novel reflects the life of Indians living in foreign soil who face the challenges like Tiger. It is the story of three Muslim siblings who decide to stay in the States. The characters like a Tiger, try to cope with challenges despite belonging to different class and race with new dreams and aspirations. According to Skakuj (Skakuj et al. (2018). [21]). The novel is set before the 9/11 incident took place. The novel embodies the growth and maturity of diasporic writing in terms of creative Indian fiction. The characters

have enough choices to make. The fact of being Muslim gives a new dimension as the characters do not have restrictions to their freedom. The Muslim upbringing does not prove a hindrance to the siblings lifestyle. There is mixture of culture and the Indian foreigners are made to feel at home by their friends .Abdulali through the story lets the readers know that it is not the trials of a new country which hinders the settlement in foreign land but the culture and emotional aspects that the character carries with them which prove to be an obstacle. The story of the novel is woven in a multi -ethnic, transnational society. Aditi Sriram’s review article published in The New York Times Book Review discusses ‘River of Fire’, an epic novel written by Qurratulain Hyder. Unlike her contemporaries who wrote about gender inequalities and women’s issues, Hyder’s River of Fire is about life before and after partition. Though published in 1959 the story is still relevant in the present time. According to Nandi (Nandi, et al. (2012). [22]). A sweeping saga which covers two thousand years, narrating era after era, of Indian history, till the ultimate split of one country into two. The reader finds it hard to enjoy the book because of Hyder’s seasonal narrative where sometimes hundred years pass in a chapter and sometimes years end in a line. The story weaves characters from Indian history from Buddhist monks, to Mughals, to English rule, till the split and aftermath. According to Taj (Taj, et al. (2009). [23]). The River of Fire floods the reader with different characters, politics, religion and philosophy with Hyder’s inimitable narrative style. Hyder treats the novel with her personal experience and extensive readings concentrating on realistic pattern of existence.

The following section of this article presents the tables that contain the research articles, books, and dissertations that are associated with Reviews of Literature. These tables can be found in the section that immediately follows this one. References to articles that could have been published at any point between 1969 and 2022 were attempted to be incorporated into the work. References to articles that could have been published at any point between 1969 and 2023 were attempted to be incorporated into the work.

Table 1: Summary of previous research findings

S. No.	Field of Research	Focus	Contributions	References
1	The identity of the Muslim Women writers	In this paper, we investigate the research that has been done on Muslim Women writers who endured the pain of being Muslim associated with the social restrictions making their condition pathetic	The paper explores and tries to prove the importance of writing of the Muslim Women writers who are marginalized in terms of race,gender and religion	Hai, (2013). [24].
2	The social obligations of Women writers in an honest perspective letting the words be their voice.	The paper discuss the free minded Women writers with new horizon coming out of their conservative cocoons with words as their powerful weapon.	It provides a good description of the writers and their understanding of the real and the fiction.	Laity, (2018). [25].
3	The research intends to capture the Muslim Women writers from	The goal of the study is to describe the Muslim Women writers both in terms of religious and nonreligious aspects, defining them in a	This paper focuses on the strength of these Women writers who have been interpreted negatively in the name of religion and gender.	Chakrabarthy, (2014). [27].

	the tight grasp of preconceived notions.	new perspective to their voices.		
4	The research provides a broad understanding of Muslim thought and identity.	The issues of reading and writing related to the Muslim Women writers has been explored in the paper to give intellectual space.	In this article the realistic and psychological aspects of characters are discussed with their individuality.	Kandhare, (2015). [26].
5	The research intends to free the Muslim Women writers from the tight grasp of preconceived ideas.	This article explains the problems that evolve around them and their suppressed status by the whole of social system.	The works exemplify the need for acknowledgement of the Women writings who have contributed to the literary tradition.	Jackson, (2013). [28].
6	The research tries to highlight the tragedy resulting from patriarchal system.	This paper throws light on the exploitation of Women in the patriarchy Hegemony prevailing in Indian household irrespective of class and religion.	The paper focuses on the life of a girl brought up in a protected life in terms of marriage and financial security.It discusses the conflict in a girls mind and the soul searching reality .	Grace, (2011). [29].
7	The research discusses class,race and inter personal concerns of Muslim settlers living in foreign land .	This essay examines the layer and alternative aspects the Women face, trying to cope with challenges with new dreams and aspirations.	The paper focuses on diasporic writing discussing issues of religion, class and race it highlights the growth and maturity of diasporic writing in terms of creative Indian fiction.	Chanda, (2008). [31].
8	The research paper discusses the challenges faced before and after Independence by the Muslim Women Writers.	This study examines how researchers and practitioners have tried to relate the turmoil the Indian Muslims go through during the Indian Independence struggle.	The research paper reflects the culture and the customs of the Indian Muslims before and after the Indian independence.	Henry, (2003). [72].
9	The research discusses the plight of Muslim Women both in terms of their strength and weaknesses.	The author focuses on a number of distinctive ideas related to Women issues. anywhere in the text you can find references to these aspects/ideas.	The author explores the position of Women focusing on their class, religion education and social standing.	Naaz, (2022). [42].

10	The research paper discusses the Muslim Women writers with broader perspective focusing on her positive attitude in spite of all the challenges and hurdles they face.	This study investigates how the surroundings, the social, cultural and historical affect the identity of Muslim Women. And it discusses how she has expressed herself reaching new horizons.	This study explores some of the best-known novels written by Muslim Women writers whose works were interpreted with pre conceived ideas.	Kiran, (2016). [35].
11	The research paper tries to identify some common problems concerned with gender issues.	The study tries understand the root causes by taking into consideration the common problems effecting the gender issues.	The paper focuses on the writings which reflected the problems faced by women in general irrespective of their social status and background.	Ayshath, (2016). [66].
12	The research tries to highlight the repression and resistance of women in relation to their oppression.	The study examines how the writers have tried to highlight this aspect of resistance the women have portrayed in their writings inspite of their oppression.	The paper explores the writings which highlight the repression and resistance of women.	Liaqat, (2019). [56].
13	The research paper examines the position of women within their private sphere of life with connection to the outer world.	The study attempts to understand the turmoil and anxiety the women face in their traditional inner world and the outer world.	The paper explores the negotiations of women in all aspects of position and status both in their private threshold and the outer world.	Sachdev, (2018). [41].
14	The paper discusses the authors work and their different approaches in feminism.	The study attempts to compare and contrast the works of the women writers with an understanding of feminism.	The paper tries to understand the gender inequality and the feminist issues in the chosen pieces of work.	Karmakar, (2018). [52].
15	The study surveys the feminist issues by voicing the agony in the	The paper deals with the feminist aspect of women's life with connection to her individuality.	The paper makes an attempt to understand her suffering and pain in terms of her individual identity.	Siddiqui, (2019). [54].

	women's heart.			
16	The paper highlights the position of women in the nationalistic perspective.	The paper discusses the historical point, of the participation of women in the nationalistic movement who had till then been confined to domestic spheres.	The paper highlights the strength of the women irrespective of her social standing who come out of their conservative cocoons to reach greater heights.	Thapar, (1993). [44].
17	The paper discusses the sufferings of the women at the time of socio-political upheaval during India Pakistan separation, which is portrayed by the female characters in the chosen novels.	The writers who reflected the sufferings of women at the time of India Pakistan separation choosed strong female characters who rebelled against the fundamentalism and also expressed their agony.	The research highlights their agony and sufferings, and also their strength in facing the trauma in a dignified manner setting an example for women in general.	Sobti, & Kumar, (2022). [39].
181	The research tries to examine a common social ill which highlights harsh reality of gender inequality.	The paper examines the common cause of domestic violence voiced by diasporic writers which could be physical or mental abuse that deprives women, her freedom and basic rights.	The paper intends to reveal that domestic violence in any form is a global concern. The writers who have gone through the domestic violence voice their concerns in their writings.	Zabihzadeh, (2015). [69].
19	The research paper discusses the marginalization of Muslim Women Writers.	The study examines the contributions of Muslim Women Writers to the literary world.	The paper argues that the works of these Muslim Women Writers are undervalued.	Hasan, (2012). [84].
20	The research paper discusses the active role of Muslim Women in religious matters.	The study discusses the marginalization of Muslim Women and also discusses about the discrimination faced by women in the name of religion.	The paper argues that the misinterpretation of the religious writing is equally responsible for the discrimination of Muslim Women in their private and public life.	Aslan, (2015). [101].
21	The research discusses the factors which brought awareness and helped in uplifting the	The paper tries to identify the key factors, especially the education which helped them to overcome their challenges and voice their concerns.	The paper tries to reveal the fact that the education helped Muslim Women to overcome the setbacks in their traditional, cultural and religious background.	Shaheen, (2009). [50].

	Muslim Women who were burdened by patriarchal system.			
22	The research discusses the feminist aspects and the agony in the voices of Muslim Women writers.	The paper attempts to understand the agony of Women in general.	The paper highlights the dignity of Women and their role in cultural and religious aspects.	Siddiqui, (2019). [54].
23	The research tries to explore the idea of freedom in Muslim Women and their dilemma in portraying their strength and weaknesses.	The paper tries to identify the factors responsible for the confusions in voicing their happiness and sadness.	The paper tries to reveal their Writings which voice their thoughts but is misinterpreted.	Hoodfar, (1992), [94].
24	The research discusses the writing of Muslim Women who found an outlet to their feelings through their writings.	The study discusses the impact of feminism through which the writers tried to set an example to Women.	The paper tries to explore the facts written in the choosen novels through which the Muslim Writers tried to come out of their oppressed situation and set an example.	Abbasi, (2022). [12].
25	The research tries to explore the significance of involvement of Women in nationalistic movement and also their contributions in nationalistic literature.	The paper throws light on the participation of women and their status at the historical time of partition of India.	The paper tries to reveal the active participation of women which contributed to literature in the form of poem,	Thapar, 1993 [44].
26	The research discusses the status of women as portrayed in the writings of Muslim Women	The study attempts to understand their difficult situation where the women played different role, showcasing their strength in spite of all the challenges.	The research paper tries to signify the role of these Muslim Women Writers who though discriminated as women, rise above the situation.	Rashid, (2019). [40].

	Writers at the time of Indian Independence.			
27	The research paper discusses the environment the Muslim Women is surrounded by, which is the private and public life.	The study paper attempts to understand the range of factors which define her status.	The study attempts to define her status which is a fusion of Islamic and Indian culture.	Kazi, (1999). [107].
28	The research paper discusses the status of Muslim Women and Writers and their limitations.	The paper focuses on the writings of Muslim Women writers and tries to understand their expressions and experiences.	The researcher tries to understand the choices of the Writers through their writings.	Ruby, (2021). [51].
29	The research discusses the educational factors responsible for their progress.	The research tries to signify that the educational benefits the Women had, generated an awareness of the status of women.	The study highlights the fact that the Muslim Women Writers status can be ascribed taking into consideration that she is an Indian as well as a Muslim women.	Hoodfar, (1992). [94].
30	The research discusses the socio-economic factors that hindered progress of women in all aspects.	The study focuses on the factors such as education, political marginalization and economic backwardness which contributes to Muslim Women's struggles.	The study throws light on the factors which though challenged the Women in general brought out the best in them through their determination against forces which tried to keep her down.	Hubel, (1997). [118].
31	The research paper explores the various interpretations of the works of Muslim Women Writers.	The paper attempts to show how the works have been misinterpreted to adhere to certain norms.	The study makes an attempt to appreciate the point that the Muslim Women writers try to raise above the situation in spite of all the challenges.	Malak, (2004). [83].
32	The research paper signifies that a woman who is treated as a subordinate will not have individual	The paper discusses the various discrimination the women endure for just being born as a female in spite of the role they play in their private and public life.	The research tries to emphasize the role of Muslim Women Writers whose works have been undervalued.	Tabassum, (1994). [79].

	identity. Her emancipation will only be The research tries possible if her strength is recognised and respected.			
33	The research explores the works of Muslim Women Writers and their limitations.	The paper discusses the works of this writers who have to follow certain norms yet speak up mirroring their strength in spite of their oppression.	The research emphasizes on their attitude which reflects their strength.	Malak, (2004). [83].
34	The research paper discusses the role of women over the years whose role was limited only in the domestic sphere.	The study paper attempts to define the role of Women with their newfound strength.	The study paper tries to recognize their voice with true understanding of their weaknesses and strength.	Patwardhan, (1993). [124].
35	The research paper examines the common issues responsible for the subordination of women in general.	The study discusses the literary contributions of Muslim Women Writers in uplifting women from the clutches of society.	The research paper discusses the factors responsible for uplifting the women who have been considered as the less important in society.	Ahsan, (2015). [103].
36	The research paper tries to examine the status of Muslim Women and how their Writings are undervalued.	The research paper tries to emphasis the role of Muslim Women in their private and public life.	The research attempts to understand their status and social standing and their representation of identity in the writing of Muslim Women Writers.	Sanyal, (2011). [85].
37	The research paper discusses how the women are treated as subaltern in every realm of society.	The study tries to emphasise the fact that the female writers who wrote about the secondary and marginalized status of Women were also treated below literary merit.	The paper tries to signify that the female writers however showcased their strength by literally writing about the Women and their quest for identity.	Jamadar, (2018). [53].

38	The research tries to emphasize the fact that patriarchy is the main obstacle which keeps the women from advancement for a better tomorrow.	The study paper discusses the different nature of patriarchy, the base of which is always the same.	The paper tries to highlight the fact that the patriarchy is the common cause which challenges the identity of women.	Sultana, (2012). [126].
39	The research paper discusses the struggle of Muslim Women writers and their religious barriers which limits their works unexplored.	The study tries to explicate the role of Muslim Women in socio-cultural discourse.	The paper tries to explicate the role of Muslim Women writers in propagating the cultural and religious aspects.	Rahmath, (2018). [47].
40	The research paper tries to highlight the status of the Muslim Women Writers who self assertive.	The paper tries to understand the predicament of the female writers who through their writings try to achieve liberation from patriarchy.	The paper makes an attempt to understand if the aspects of feminism in the writings will help the individual identity of women in general.	Kalpana, (2002). [63].
41	The paper tries to elucidate the status of Muslim Women in cultural and religious aspects.	The study attempts to explain the status of women in general which is secondary in all aspects.	The paper makes an attempt to understand the status of women and their identity.	Engineer, (1994). [64].
42	The research paper discusses the complexities in the issues regarding the Muslim Women with relation to their religion and surrounding.	The paper tries to provide a better insight into the dilemma of Muslim Women in India.	The research tries to highlight the various issues related to Muslim Women and Muslim Women Writers which has changed their outlook in the recent era.	Kumar, (2002). [108].

43	The research discusses the difficulties the writers face when they discuss the socio-economic status and caste based cultural issues.	The paper tries to offer explanation of women who are oppressed, subjugated and discriminated in the name of law and religion.	The research tries to highlight the fact that the Women can achieve advancement only when they become aware of their rights and utilize it.	Siddiqi, (1993). [109].
44	The research paper examines the literary practices of Muslim Women Writers with a view to understand their political, social and economical representations in their works.	The paper discusses the literary works of the Muslim Writers who have entered the public spheres as intellectuals rather than as oppressed women.	The author explores some of the best known works of the writers.	Zine, (2002). [117].

Source: Compiled by the author.

6. CURRENT STATUS & NEW RELATED ISSUES :

The research emphasizes on social justice and change in the way the Muslim women's lives and writings are viewed offsetting the power to acknowledge the issues from the women's standpoint. According to Armani (Armani, et al. (2009). [127]). The research makes an attempt to emphasize on the fact that the women have a right to live with dignity and be free from cultural oppression to enjoy social status.

7. IDEAL SOLUTION, DESIRED STATUS & IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED :

The research tries to create space and opportunity in all the desired identities reflecting on feminist values. According to Hossain (Hossain, M. I. et al. (2013). [129]). It takes into consideration the main aspects of oppression, discrimination, marginalization and nurtures space for the expression of diverse, understanding of gendered power imbalances to promote women's rights removing the barrier of biased assumptions.

8. RESEARCH GAP :

Research on the Muslim Women Writers have focused only on the negative side of Muslim life. But their strength and success stories are not highlighted. According to Hasan (Hasan, et al. (2022). [130]) In the thesis I want to throw light on the success of their life in terms of education and how they have come out of their oppressed situation.

9. RESEARCH AGENDA :

My agenda is to search for the brighter side of the Muslim Women in the chosen work of art / novels. The research Scholar hopes that the study will succeed in highlighting the fact that the novels of Indian Muslim Women writers do not focus merely on the domestic and familial, but are more concerned about larger issues of the nation and the world. According to Schneider (Schneider, N. C. et al. (2009). [131]). The research emphasizes on the fact that women have a right to live with dignity and be free from cultural oppression to enjoy social status.

10. ANALYSIS OF THE RESEARCH AGENDA :

The Muslim Women writers through their novel present their works as acts of resistance against the male dominant society. Through their writings they present the spirit of rebellion against the patriarchal society and aspire to bring positive changes in their position in society especially through education and freedom of choice. According to Hasan (Hasan, M. M. et al. (2013). [132]). The female characters in the chosen novels portray the struggle of women in their personal and public life and also their anguish against society.

11. FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL ON THE CHOSEN TOPIC :

The Research Scholar hopes that in these five novels, examples will be found for the success of the study of struggling Muslim Women who though oppressed rise above the situation. According to Friedman (Friedman, S. S. et al (2018). [133]). It is also the researcher's mission to clarify all bias against Muslim Women in India.

12. ABCD LISTING ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH :

There are a variety of research indices are often used to evaluate a researcher's skill and, as a result, the quality of research conducted as well as the quality of research publication. The number of research paper published by a research scholar for a certain period or the citation values of a research scholar's research publications are used to calculate research indices. Apart from commonly used citation indices like H-index, i10- index, and G-index, and based on an argument for why certain research publications do not initially attract citations for some years, it is discovered that calculating the annual research index for an author by considering annual research publications is the best method of identifying the contribution to research. ARP-Index (Annual Research Publication Index), RC-Index (Research Continuation Index), RE-Index (Research Expansion Index), Project productivity Index, and Cost Index are some of the new research indices that have recently been suggested for calculating research productivity of individuals as well as team of people in an organisation, in this paper, we used a unique technique of qualitative analysis of a system or concept termed ABCD analysis/ listing developed by Aithal P. S. (2016) to investigate these four constructs [134-140].

Advantage: The Muslim Women Writers whose works have been interpreted from the conventional literary point of view have been discussed in this paper. where a writer is just writing about her experiences of her identity, her sexuality, her family and married life. But again, her works are considered with reference to her pain and suffering and her fight to raise up from her given situation is ignored. According to Minault (Minault, G. et al (1986). [141]). This research paper tries to change the common literary conventions and highlight their strength where the writers will be in control of their voice and narratives.

Benefits: This research paper adds to the existing body of knowledge by presenting an overview of the existing literature written by Muslim Women writers. According to Ahmed (Ahmed, S. et al (2021). [142]). It also critically analyses the topic with the intent to highlight areas for future focus.

Constraints: The research constraints will always be constant in the given topic of my research since it will always be compared and contrasted with the changing times. Since the Muslim women writings are influenced by cultural and religious barriers the research practice will have several changes. According to Pour (Pour, S. B. et al (2013). [143]). Even if there is a great deal of written material connected to the topic, the researchers do not want a single discourse to simplify a detailed overview that covers a wide range of issues related to the topic of research.

Disadvantages: In this study, "A Critique of the Representation of Muslim Women in the Works of Select Indian Muslim Women Novelists", the focus is on the strength and status of Muslim Women writers as the title suggests. According to Moaddel (Moaddel, M. et al (2001). [144]). No matter how much has been written on the subject, the focus of this research is on it as the most important part of the examination. As a result of this, the researchers do not want one single discourse to simplify a complete overview.

13. SUGGESTIONS :

Only a few Muslim Women Writers have come forward to give expressions to Muslim life. The Women Writers who have come forward are showing only the miseries of a Muslim women's life in the society. But they should portray or show the strength and positive side of Muslim women. According to Parveen (Parveen, S. et al. (2018). [145]). They should show the privileges they get to enjoy when adhering to the principles / practices of Muslim life.

14. EXPECTED OUTCOME :

Indian Muslim women are not totally helpless. They are empowered nowadays and coming forward in life. According to Islam (Islam, M. B. et al. (2018). [146]). The research tries to give insights into the conditions of these women by not only understanding their vulnerability and oppressed state but also by acknowledging their strength. They have entered all spheres of life. Muslim Women's negative aspect of life has been discussed and highlighted. But her positive attitude to life and her achievements has been overlooked.

15. LIMITATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL :

The research has its limitations as the data gathered are limited since the Muslim women writers in India are few in number. Also, the writings are compared and contrasted with the social, economic, and cultural factors, which keep changing constantly. According to Qadeer (Qadeer, H. et al. (2011). [147]). The role of women has changed tremendously giving her a status redefined. So, the research will focus on women issues and their writings, which will adhere and relate to the topic considering their education, status and strength.

16. IMPLICATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSAL :

Implication is to bring / create awareness among Muslim women in India. According to Van (Van. et al. (2019). [148]). Also, to showcase to the world the strength and the brighter side of Muslim women in India.

17. CONCLUSION :

The status of Indian Muslim Women has changed tremendously over the years with the advent of modern education and globalization. According to Kirmani (Armani, N. (2009). [149]). A Muslim woman knows her rights and duties being educated both in terms of religion and worldly wisdom. Muslim women have crossed her threshold with open access to science, literature, and financial stability. Indian Muslim Women writers voice this strength and reflect it in their literary career. These Muslim women writers specify the role of Muslim women from the preconceived ideas and notions of oppressed Muslim females.

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