

## **The Female characters represented in novels of Premchand**

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Premchand who is considered as the prestigious monarch of the genre of the novel in Hindi literature can be rightfully said to have fulfilled this objective and therefore can be applauded as a great novelist. Premchand's sympathetic focus was always directed towards the under privileged community which included the poor farmers, suppressed laborers and the downtrodden low caste. In his sympathetic focus on the underprivileged communities, It is apparent that he had an extraordinary focus on the the downtrodden gender role of a woman. When we explore through his literary works as a whole : Vardan, Sewasadan, Prathigya, Premashram, Rangbhoomi, Karmbhoomi, Nirmala, Gaban, Kayakalp and Godan; we can understand that he had always voiced his opinion against social injustices pertaining to woman such as child marriages, restriction of a second marriage for widows, infringement of the right to education of woman, the problem of the dowry, marriage of young girls to elderly men and the problem of the prostitution. The main objective of this research is to reveal and assess the factors which affected Premchand's portrayal of the downtrodden women and their miserable lives. For this purpose I used both primary and secondary sources. The discussions I had regarding premchand with the Indian professors, Lecturers and scholars served as my primary sources while his literacy works, his life story and the back ground of his area were my secondary sources. According to Premchand, Hinduism and its religious laws condemned woman to the role of sub missives to men. Especially The 'Manusmruthi' which is a smruthi socializes the idea that men are superior to women amd women are inferior to men. Premchand was in fact no alien to the underprivileged community. he himself was a member of belonging to the downtrodden community. Therefore he had a great deal of personal experiences. He fought against the restriction of a second marriage and he himself marrying a young widow. He lived in the nation of brave leaders such as Gandhi, Nehru and in a time period in which struggles aiming at the emancipation of women were on progress. From all these facts and figures it is evident that his life circumstances, his social background, his intimacy with other writers and their literary works influenced his depiction of the downtrodden woman in his novels.

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