



International Journal of Arts & Education Research

STAB FOR IDENTITY IN ROOTS AND SHADOWS

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ABSTRACT

Roots and Shadows has won *Thirumathi Rangammal Prize* for being the best Indian novel in English of 1982-83. Shashi Deshpande tries to define Indian marriage and married life in her famous novel *Roots and Shadows*. Wedding plays a fundamental role in the existence of a female. It is still the final aim of a girl's life in India. Shashi Deshpande through her works criticizes the society that creates suffocation and removes female of her characteristics. Indu, a central character, brought up in a traditional Brahmin family governed by Akka the mother picture in the novel. The story begins with the heroine's revisit to her inherited residence. The parental home commence her into an understanding of the meaning of individual existence. She tries discovering what her heredity are - as a self-governing lady and an author, and what her shades are - a daughter and money-making writer. She rises up against Akka, her conservative humanity, and her inflexible values and marries Jayant. To conquer liberty, she tries to find marriage as a substitute to the bondage inevitable in the parental family. After marriage she thinks by fitting herself in a new responsibility of a wife to achieve her freedom. She was wrong. In Indian culture freedom is limited for female even after marriage. But she tries to achieve her goal continue.