

# Patriarchy, Female Sensibility and Marital Discord in Nayantara Sahgal's Select Works

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*As a feminist writer, Nayantara Sahgal(1927.....) deals with female issues in a varied ways in post Independence India. She has portrayed women and how their domestic existence and married life robs them of all their joy. She does not like inaction and passivity of her female characters. She imperceptibly and subtly conveys her message of revolt and courage through Saroj's and her own decision to walk out of marriage that had become a kind of death in life with no ray of hope from their jealous husbands. Nayantara Sahgal's married couples grapple with emotional crisis in their life. They are broken hearted, emotionally incompatible and socially unstable. In most of the cases male partners' ruin the relationship as they are too much rooted in patriarchy and thus incompatible with the modern outlook of their female partners. While the female partners are always in search of self discovery and self exploration, her male partners are victims of stereotyped image of women and thereby refuse to acknowledge equality and freedom of their partners. The author tries to dismantle the old age notions of women being inferior and man being superior. Her female characters are educated and rebel and they are against being used just as piece of furniture and objects of sex. Lack of response and communication make them suffer from loneliness even in the company of their husbands. This, in turn, makes them revolt against their cramped existence with their husbands. They do not surrender to the male chauvinistic theory. They even do not allow their husbands to use them as objects of sex or property and walk out if their identity and individual existence is denied to them.*

**Keywords:** Patriarchy, Disharmony, Feminism, Subjugation, Crisis, Discord,