

# Independence in the Dark

Srishti Choudhary Dhanda<sup>1</sup> and Saadat Amin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Research Scholars, Department of Humanities,  
DCRSUT Murthal, Haryana

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**Abstract**—Literature is a mirror of intimate human relationships. Within that space, gender plays a vital role in reflecting the inner and outer realities of human experiences. The paper tends to explore the journey of Mumtaz in the novel “Moth Smoke”. It seeks to define roles a woman involves herself into with respect to geographical, spatial and temporal differences. These roles are the caricature of a common woman’s life. Furthermore, the paper will also answer questions of how a modern woman finds intellectual independence. Through the annals of human history Woman has always been interpellated as victim in the patriarchal society. During militancy in Kashmir fear psychosis rose tremendously among both Hindu and Muslim community in general and its woman folk in particular. Woman was treated as scapegoat by the men in power to exercise their power politics. None the less these women of war have come out strong. Their resistance and resilience is seen in the form of writing books showing their intellectual independence where in they show they are not just victims but the survivors who fought and are still fighting fearlessly.