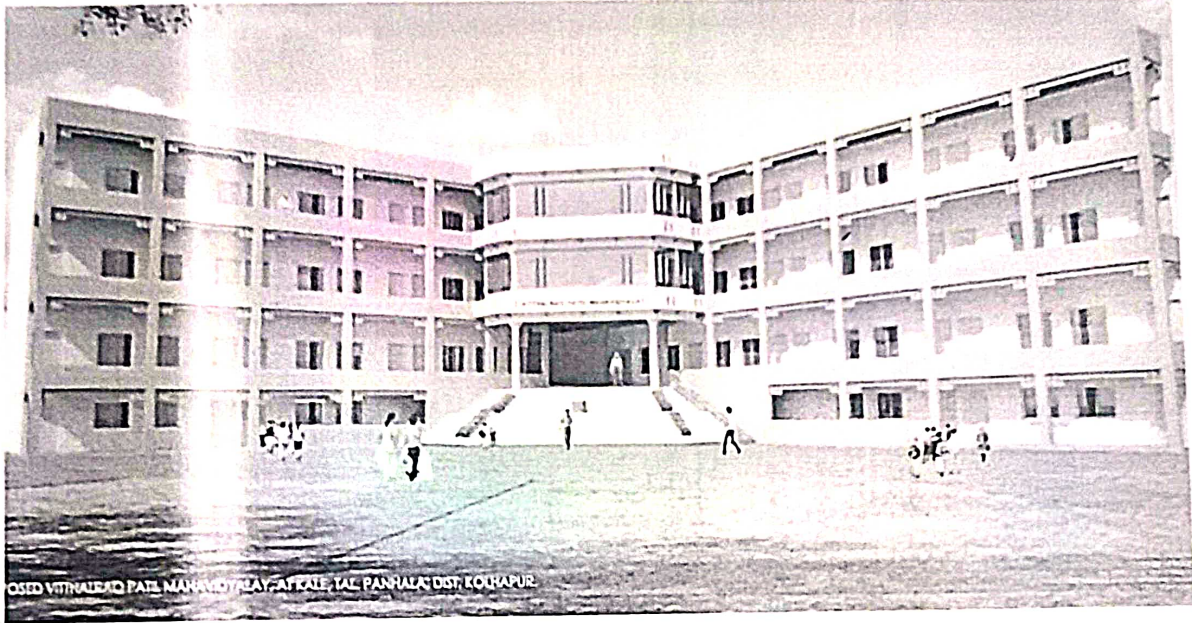


**One-Day
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Maharashtra State
Ph. (02328) 232093, 232001.
Website : www.vpmkale.edu.in

**CONSTITUTION OF THE FEMINIST SELF IN SELECT SHORT
STORIES OF KUSUM ANSAL**

Mrs. Swati Prashant Patil
Assistant Professor, Deptt. Of English
Venutai Chavan College, Karad.

Abstract-

Kusum Ansal is feminist and realistic writer in Hindi literature. Her literature is translated into many languages. She mainly wrote about modern India and modern Indian women. With education Indian women developed their career in all fields and experienced a liberated spirit. Literature is reflection of society and from this point of view female protagonists in Kusum Ansal's story are the real images of emancipated Indian women. The present article discusses three stories of kusum Ansal. The selected stories are translated into English. The male dominant patriarchal culture of India is the major reason of women's oppression and humiliations. A woman suffers in the Family and not secure in the society. The selected stories focus women's exploitation in the family and her rebel against it. Now the modern woman asserts her emancipated self and identity.

Key word: Patriarchal society – male dominance – women's oppression rebel – feminism-
emancipated self.

The Full Article-

Kusum Ansal is a well-known writer in Hindi literature. Her contribution to novels, poems, short stories and travelogues is noteworthy. She also has written screen-play and dialogues for a film *Panchvati* which is based on her novel *Ek Aur Panchvati*. Her books have been translated into English, Punjabi, Bengali, Urdu, Greek, Russian, and French. She also has contributed to television, All India Radio, and Indian Progression Writer's Theatre Association. She is a great lover of flowers and a qualified ikebana teacher. She has acquired her master's degree in psychology and doctoral research in Hindi literature. Kusum Ansal is a versatile personality. She organizes a monthly literary meet 'Samvad' for creative writers of all languages. She also has contributed for social development as a director of Chiranjiv Bharti school. She has been the recipient of several awards such as Shiromani Award (1987), Priyadarshni Award (1988), Sahitya Sammelan Award (1998), Sahitya Academy Award (Punjabi) (1997), International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge Award and so on.

Kusum Ansal's Writing is prominently feministic, and realistic. Humanism is the soul of her writing. Through her short stories, she tries to explore modern India. The present research paper discusses the constitution of feminist self in the three selected short stories of Kusum Ansal. The stories selected are as follow-

- 1) *My Lover's Name*
- 2) *I Am My Own Bodhisattva*
- 3) *The Self*.

All these stories are first published in 2000 in collection of short stories "*My Lover's Name and Other Stories*" translated into English by Masooma Ali.

Feminism Advocates and tries to establish political, economic, social and personal equality of the sexes (male and female). Feminism means woman should have the same rights, power and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way. The Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary defines adjective 'feminist' as relating or supporting feminism. The word 'Self' refers to a person's essential being that distinguishes a person from others, especially considered as the object of introspection or reflexive action. Cambridge Dictionary gives a wider meaning of 'self' as the set of someone's characteristics, such as personality and ability that are not physical and make that person different from other people. Feminist self is one of the dominant features of feminism that refers to women body (her physical self), her place in society, (sociality) and her being as human (the very existence on earth). It also refers ability of a woman at physical and mental level. The word constitution here means the composition or structure, or arrangement or formation. It does not have any political meaning here. The words in the title of the paper "Constitution of Feminist Self" means construction of mental and physical features of women characters in the select stories of Kusum Ansal. Before commenting on the feminist self as structured in the stories, let's discuss the stories in nutshell.