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3	Dr. Vinita Basantani	Interview with Bapsi Sidhwa	978-81-8043- 147-0
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GENDER AND DIVERSITY CRITICAL STUDIES IN

BAPSI SIDHWA'S FICTION

Editors

Vinita Basantani

Ajit Kumar

M. U. Gollege of Commerce Pippin, PUNE - 411 017.

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Vinita D. Basantani

Feminism is a cultural, political and intellectual movement that recognizes the fact that women are subjugated and need to be liberated. Feminismaspiresto fight for equal rights and opportunities for women. For achieving this aim, it demands more concern, respect and consideration from the male counterparts. Eisenstein interprets the term feminist or feminism as:

In my understanding of the term 'feminist' then I see an element of visionary futurist thoughts. This encompasses a concept of social transformation that as part of the eventual liberation of women with change all human relationships for the better. Although centrally about women, their experience and condition, Feminism is also fundamentally about men and about social change. (58)

Recent form offeminism (after 1960s) is an emergent sociopolitical movement that aims at understanding the power structures in the society which are instrumental in assigning a marginalized position to women. Feminist theory also formulates the strategies in order to change the social structures, which can help in emancipation of women. As Simone de Beauvoir writes in *The Second Sex*:

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Interview with Bapsi Sidhwa

Vinita Basantani

Vinita: Was writing your childhood passion?

Bapsi Sidhwa: my passion was reading. I read anything and everything I could lay my hands on. I think my subconscious absorbed all the skills, so that years later I could write usually and express myself exactly. I didn't go to school because of polio.

Vinita: In all of your novels, except The Pakistani Bride, you deal with the Parsi community. Does it any how reflect your personal life?

Bapsi Sidhwa: I am a Parsi. Religion does not figure in a big way with the community but I have absorbed the culture and it has shaped my characters and the content and plots of me stories and novels

Vinita: Critics assess that you present women authored partition narrative in all of your novels. How do you view such comments?

Bapsi Sidhwa: since I am a woman it's just natural that's feelings and vision as a woman is paramount in my writing

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"Bapsi Sidhwa here receives the full and serious consideration her novels so eminently deserve. These essays show how her work profoundly extends our understanding of a range of experiences, including the Partition of the Indian subcontinent, Parsi culture, violence against women, and migration."

Lyn Imnes, Emeritus Professor of Postcolonial Literatures, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

Gender and Diversity: Critical Studies in Bapsi Sidhwa's Fiction, thoughtfully rendered by Dr. Vinita D.Basantani and Dr. Ajit Kumar, gives us a whole view of Sidhwa, something previously impossible without studying her entire body of work oneself. Her journeys, both real and on the ground—and in exploring her complex identity, are all here, in one place, at last."

Amy Gigi Alexander, Editor in Chief, Panorama the Journal of Intelligent Travel, the USA

"Bapsi Sidhwa is the Harper Lee of Anglo-Indian literature and her gesture towards peace and understanding among divergent people has been of inestimable value. She writes from the heart and goes to the heart. An author whose work is to be treasured."

Paul Casey, Critic, the USA

"Gender Diversity: Critical Studies in Bapsi Sidhwa's Fiction by Dr. Vinita D. Basantani and Dr. Ajit Kumar is a welcome addition to critical insights on one of the leading diasporic writers Bapsi Sidhwa. The book contains an interesting array of articles on Sidhwa's novels that reveal her individual perceptive understanding of the Indian subcontinent's Partition, violence against women, migration to the US, and her affiliation to the Parsi community."

Prof. Anita Singh, Department of English, B.H. University, India



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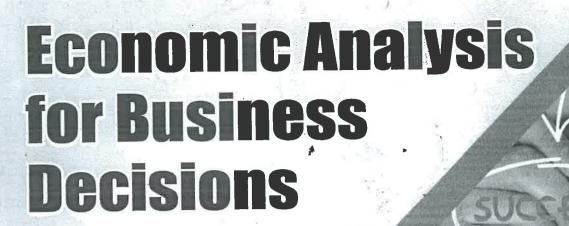
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Core (103)

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