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## WOMEN'S AGONY IN ANITA NAIR'S *EATING WASP*

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### Abstract:

Anita Nair, the writer of Indian writing, records her experience of Indian women's conditions in the society. The writer uses literature to express her views in a realistic way. Her latest novel *Eating Wasps* is about women and discusses women's conditions how they go through the four letter word called 'life'. It deals about women's stories. The Protagonist of the novel is a writer of her own life. In Nair's novel, women suffer due to heart break and jealousy. At the same time their physical injury in a world is too sensitized enough to compare with men and understand what women really seek and feel. In *Eating Wasps*, Anita Nair discusses about women's boon and bane. *Eating Wasps* deals about the different women's circumstances, invading their minds and hearts. This research paper titled *Women's Agony in Anita Nair's Eating Wasps* deals with the life of SreeLakshmi, the problems in her life, and her agonies. The society fixes some patterns for women; she should be dependent on man and submissive. This story represents the contemporary women's struggle and abide.

**Keywords:** Abide, agonize, circumstances, sensitize, submissive.

Anita Nair has faced agony many times in life. She describes and feels the sting of a wasp as extreme pain. The researcher probes into the behavior of wasps and its important role in Nair's new novel, *Eating Wasps*. This book is not the first entry in literature, ancient writers like Aristophanes' play *The Wasps* in 422 BC have focused their attention on insects. Wasps are cruel and dangerous insects. In *Eating Wasps* a wasp is the foe of the protagonist. It vanquishes her life and she suffers agony throughout her life because of the wasp. It flies into her mouth, and stings her, Lakshmi crunches and chews the wasp. It shows her bravery in facing and controlling the wasps. This courageous act of the girl defines her life and behavior. The narrator of the novel, Sreelakshmi tells about the word *sutradhar*. It would be more right for a particular situation because she does not narrate and tell so much as she observes. Her story is just one of the stories of a dozen women, she encounters in her life. All these women suffer agony. The connection of Sreelakshmi's character is one among the other women. In this sense, the book is more related to short stories than a novel right from the beginning till the end. Sreelakshmi's story is only one act in the course of the book and other characters fit in and out. Sometimes it is a strange device.

The acquaintance with other characters is seen in her debut *Ladies Coupé*. If *Ladies Coupé* was about women seeking an identity, *Eating Wasps* is about women who seek their identity and try to preserve it. Lakshmi meets other women who too face many hurdles in their life, irrespective of their hardship they try to cope up with life. Technology and society's impact on women is most defaulted in the analyses of Sreelakshmi's character. Nair makes it very interested by the integral age and its curate perfection. Life is not the same for everyone, each one faces difficulty in a different way and the way they handle problems are also unique. Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe* the sixth passenger Marikoluthu is completely feminist, she lives for herself and takes the responsibility of her thirteen years old son. She tells Akhila, "I'm not telling you that women are weak, women are strong, women can do everything, as well as men, women can do much more, But a women has to seek that vein of strength in herself. It does not show itself naturally" (209-210).

Nair raises a question why a woman like Lakshmi would decide to end her life. She shoots out this question through her novel *Eating wasps* through the character of Sreelakshmi.

*Eating Wasps* is filled with the deep monologues, and darkness of women's agony. Most of the privileged women find their bad marriages misery and struggle in their life socially and personally in a most affecting and memorable way. The story starts with Sreelakshmi's suicide a 30-year old unmarried woman who teaches zoology. A man stands as a reason behind her suicide. But it does not make a deep cut in anyone's life. Nair explains Sreelakshmi's character in a three-dimensional way. First is, injustices. Second is, self-belief, Third is, how she exhibits her wake of disasters. She brings her own story and also of some other women. The other protagonist is Urvashi, a woman who is also in her 30s, who enjoys the bliss of married life. She plays her role perfectly as a wife but lacks all chemistry and feeling of love for her husband. She joins a dating app on the advice of her friends and finds a married man who she can share about her feelings. Urvashi has a sexual chemistry, but sometimes it is dependent on sex. This relationship also stops soon, when she expresses her feelings in a sexual way. Some men send threatening messages hence she withdraws from the dating and sexual life.

In *Eating Wasps*, Nair describes the flaw, confusion of human beings and the means they try to find happiness and enjoyment. Nair introduces a super human status in society's view related to women. Nair explains and realizes women's speculation and their death. Nair says that any ordinary woman is a legend, a tragic heroine, and they endanger themselves in extraordinary ways. Nair avoids the elevation of her heroines to make them flawless.

Nair creates the portraits in a peculiar way. She creates the supporting characters with a blend of caste, class, and religion in an easy manner. The narration has simple structure. The Malayalam poet and novelist Rajalakshmi has influenced Nair in the portrayal of women's suffering. The Malayalam novel *Oru Vazhiyum Kure Nizhalukulum* is a sort of advice to the women folk to cross all the hurdles in life with enough courage and evil prowess. The problems that women face in life gives them the inner strength to tackle the problems and to accept life as it is. In Nair's novel, Women suffer not only of heart break and jealousy but also physical injury in the patriarchal world. Men are analyzed to understand women's condition, agony, seek and feel. In this novel *Eating Wasps*, Nair tells of women's agony. She captures the female conditions in the society and elaborately deals about the emotions at different stages and circumstances of their lives. As per Sreelakshmi and Urvashi's condition, Women must be brave and courage. Women should not be controlled by emotions and feelings. One must burst out and express their feeling in a good manner, within limits and control. Woman's agony a mistress, a child, two sisters, a badminton player, a mother, a wife and a divorcee.

Through *Eating Wasps* Nair requests women to accept all ordeals in life, follow ethical values and live a happy life in spite of the agony? Life teaches many lessons, ending one's life is not the ultimate end. Response to life optimistically is more essential, pessimism kills the inner strength and pushes one to the rear end. Women should possess more strength than men, for they have to face more problems than men. Mere sympathy and consolation will push women to the corner. Women should be pillars of the family and nation. If possible they should retaliate for the hardships faced by men. In the Feminist criticism in the wilderness, Elaine Showalter says "We may never reach the promised land at all; . . . we realize that the land promised to us is not the serenely undifferentiated universality but the tumultuous and intriguing wilderness of difference itself" (345).

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