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SELF REALIZATION IN LADIES COUPE BY ANITA NAIR

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For women to attain liberation she has to know that she has everything. Women have become dependent upon men expecting their hands. Women must know the purpose of life. In order to attain identity a woman should realize that power comes from inner strength. Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe* is a good example for the process of self-realization. It mainly focuses on the status of women in society. It depicts the urge for identity and freedom. Anita Nair compares "*Ladies Coupe*" to Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* since it is a compilation of six women's stories.

Anita Nair is an Indian writer who is known for her works like *Ladies coupe*, *Mistress*, *Lessons in forgetting* and so on. Anita Nair has written a number of plays, screenplays a few movies and a few novels. Her collection of essays include *Goodnight and God bless* and four books for children. Anita Nair was honored with central Sahitya Academy Award for contributing children's literature. All her works has been published over thirty languages.

The novel *Ladies coupe* turned out to be a huge success. It vividly describes the women who go in search of their identity. She should realize that power is her true aspect. Women's role is limited to family regardless of her profession and desires. Anita Nair through this work projects Indian Feminism and the urge for women's identity. Feminism is defined as a cultural movement that focuses on the equality for women. The true gender equality is the complement of both men and women. The word Feminism has generated a keen interest among the people and in no way India is an exception.

Ladies Coupe has received much welcome and interest among the readers. This novel has been translated into twenty one languages. Anita Nair took such a feminist tone in this novel which made her one of the most famous female Indian writer in English. Anita Nair was travelling in a Ladies coupe, surrounded by women who were talking more openly to strangers. She named her work to be Ladies Coupe after this incident. Anita Nair compares her novel to *The Canterbury Tales* since it is the compilation of the lives of women who were travelling in the train. Each woman had her own stories to tell. They are the set of stories in a casing. Akhilandeshwari alias Akhila forty five, is single, a clerk by profession who has been brought up in a conservative background. Akhila bears the burden of her family losing her own identity. Janaki, the oldest in Coupe, in her whole life depends on her husband and son and always had a man to protect her. Sheela, the youngest of the six who is fourteen years old talks about abuse of a man on a female child. Through Sheela, Nair has brought out the abuse of women by men. Of all those tales the most traumatic is that of Marikolunthu, who is at her thirties a victim of a man's lust. She has experienced physical abuse and poverty. Margaret Shanthi another woman in the Coupe is a flourishing chemistry teacher and her marriage life is unhappy. Her husband is rigorous and uncaring towards her. Margaret wanted to divorce him but does not do so due to the unacceptance of society.

Ladies coupe questions the status of women, rule of an obedient daughter, a docile wife and a producer of children. It mainly focuses the problems of self realization. Through her stories she portrays the sensibilities of a woman, how a woman looks at her issues and her identity.

Works Cited

Nair Anita,. *Ladies Coupe*, New Delhi; Penguin Books , 2001.print