

## **Sexual is Political: Gender, Body and Language in Indian Women's Short Fiction in English**

### **Abstract:**

Today Sexuality has become one of the most contentious and contested concepts of both academic interest and socio-political movements because it has become a site of strife and struggle over which major political battles are fought between the repressive ideologies of the State/fundamentalist groups and the creative forces of Nature and human life. It is precisely because of this dialectic nature that the concept has today become at once the most personal and the political, the most public and the most private of issues that engages the attention of literatures written by women across genres and geographies. The proposed research intends to explore this concept of sexuality and its critical calibrations in the context of Indian Women's Short Fiction in English. Even a cursory glance at the tradition of Indian Literature in English is sufficient to show that Indian academia has effortlessly sidelined Indian English Short Fiction in general and Women's Short Fiction in particular. There seems to be a serious critical negligence towards this body of writing which has a tradition of more than a century. This conspicuous negligence has necessitated a dire academic need to re-examine and recast women's short fiction in India. Women's writings, which bear the authentic signatures of their experience, open before us a new vista, wherein one can find how societies and traditions have played a subversive role in relegating women to a secondary position. Interestingly, it is through such writings that women have been able to resist the subjection and subjugation of the patriarchy and construct their subjectivity by reworking on their 'sexuality', because sexuality has emerged as vital and foundational to understanding one's identity. It is in the light of these factors that this study intends to explore the text of sexuality and its associate concepts such as gender, body and language in the context of Indian Women's Short Fiction in English.

**Keywords:** *Sexuality, Gender, Body, Language, Indian Women's Short Fiction in English*