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## Suppression of Women in Gita Hariharan's *The Thousand Faces of Night*

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### ABSTRACT

The present article aims to analyse the Gita Hariharan's debut novel *The Thousand Faces of Night*. Githa wanted to show caste discrimination, male domination that persists in both old and new ways ideas. *The Thousand Faces of Night* mainly focusing on how women suppressed in mythology and reality. Githa gave her ideas towards women equality and discrimination thoughts are expressed by three characters named Devi, Mayamma, and Sita. Devi is the young Indian girl, she is the protagonist of this novel. *The Thousand Faces of Night* depicts the suffering of an Indian women and how women are suppressed in the society and cultural norms. Githa Hariharan points that many gender discrimination are occurs because of Indian tradition and culture.

**Keywords:** Myths, gender inequality, suppression, discrimination, tradition.

In the beginning of the novel. Devi decided to leave America because of her mother's advise. She was in love with Dan, her American boyfriend. When it comes to marriage stay Devi disapproved his proposal. From above idea Githa Hariharan secretly gives an Indian Tradition and their Moral by the

love story of Dan and Devi. Because of Dan's religion and his culture she rejected the Dan's proposal because if she marries dan it will affect her cultural identity. After the arrival of Devi, Sita arranged marriage to her. Devi married Mahesh who was from same caste and follows their

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culture. They both had a good understanding but they doesn't have time to share their inner feelings. Because Mahesh was fully engaged with his work to make their future good, but this made them to break their relationship. Mahesh like to be a businessman more than being a good husband to Devi. In absence of Mahesh, Mayamma is the only companion to devi, who tells her past experience to Devi. Mayamma married at the age of twelve due to her family circumstance. Mayamma's husband is an alcoholic due to his behaviour she was sad and unhappy in her marriage life and Mayamma's first baby is died because of bad parenting. Her Mother-in-law gives false accusations for the death of Mayamma's baby and cursed Mayamma for this situation. Githa Hariharan gives an idea of women condition in Indian family. Where people always points out mistakes in women's life even though they make mistakes. From Mayamma's life Githa Hariharan gives an Mythical beliefs of women standard. The story of Damayanti, Gandhari, and Savitri. Mayamma gives her ideas by telling mythical stories of Mahabaratha, Ramayanana. She said how Savitri serves her husband and the problem she faced to save her husband from lord Yama. And in the story of Mahabaratha, Mayamma gives womanly qualities with the reference of Gandhari. She was married with Dhritrashtra who is blind by nature. So Gandhari also covers her

eyes blindfolded After hearing these stories of Mayamma she feels sad about women's suffering in all mythical stories. This represents the sacrifice of women. Devi did not like women to be a slave. The absence of the Mahesh is not tolerated by devi. And she wants a physical relationship and she was longed for love. That time she noticed a man in her neighbourhood named Gopal, and Devi had interest in music by birth so she starts to have a relationship with Gopal and later they have a good understanding. Devi is not like Mayamma or Sita.

Devi was studied in America so she thinks rationally. Mahesh did not give a physical and mental pleasure to her. So Devi lead happy life with Gopal. After some days she realize that Gopal is also like Mahesh, Gopal started losing interest towards Devi and they had a misunderstanding and this makes her to mentally ill. She leaves Gopal and starts to live with her mother Sita. And she starts her life without the help of a man. Gita Hariharan portrays the character devi as a seditionary woman. And devi was fights for her individualism.

## WORKS CITED

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