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Sahitya Akademi



Raknno, Konkani Weekly

invite you to

meet the author

Hema Naik





The facet of 'Women in Society' would not have been complete in Konkani literature without the contribution of Hema Naik. Rebellious and tough voice of Hema struck a wave of feminism in Konkani literature. Attacking the feudal patriarchy in society, Hema Naik began writing previously as Hema Dhumatkar. Born in an upper class feudal family, Hema fiercely attacked the feudal and male chauvinism that prevailed during the time through her early writings. Later invoking and establishing trends of feminism in Konkani literature, Hema is considered as guiding light for the young writers who rebelled and questioned the structures that obstructed change. Hema Naik is just not a noted Konkani novelist but is

also responsible for striking new wave thinking in the Konkani literature. Responding to the need for integrating scattered and impulsive feminist sentiments with the mainstream Konkani literature, Hema began series of 'Chitrangi Mellave', the conferences for young Konkani women writers. This acted as a catalyst for engineering feminism in Konkani literature.

As said by the doyen of modern Konkani thought Ravindra Kelekar that a Konkani writer is first a fighter. Nothing appeared on the horizons of Konkani without a consistent struggle - right from the colonial suppression of the mother-tongue and local culture to the struggle for language recognition and identity within the union of India. The movement for Goa's statehood and official language broke out in 1985. Hema spearheaded the brigade of women intellectuals and activists in the movement.

Hema, a graduate in Economics, began her activities and writing through the involvement in the student movement. The 1973 World women conference, organized by the All India Women's Federation at Calcutta (now Kolkata) provoked Hema to portray the mirror image of women in society in the Konkani literature. Responding to the needs of the Konkani movement, Hema has successfully envisaged the creative mediums which delivered laurels to the language. Hema is an accomplished publisher of over 100



With Ravindra Kelekar, Jnanpith Awardee and his wife Godubai during Chitrangi women's meet.



With Nilesh Newalkar, producer of the film Gunaji, writer Pundalik Naik, actor Upendra Limaye and Yugank

titles with Apurbai Prakashan as the publication house, catering to the needs of publishing books and journals in Konkani. Hema was instrumental in initiating film culture of Konkani by producing Konkani movie. Activist, writer, organizer, publisher, translator, producer are the various facets of Hema Naik.

Hema's writings travel through different shades of life and struggle. In a quest to find reality in the dark and grey areas, Hema brings out the helplessness of women bounded by the hollow customs, traditions and rituals of the society and even the educated stay as mere spectators. The female characters that appear in her short stories and novels seek answers, justice, and rebel and react.

Nirbala (1992) the novelette,

where the protagonist - Sapana - is helpless, witnesses the inhuman life around her as a passive sufferer, not a reactionary. Hema puts forward the helplessness of the lady, questioning the silence of the society. Whereas Pranita in another short story 'Nimane Sanskar' thrashes away the societal customs and lights the pyre of a dead father. The Durgi in the short story 'Durgavatar' portrays the radical face of a lady, who is uneducated, who kills her husband after facing the day to day domestic violence and abuses at home.

The *Jemma* in *Bhogdandd* (1997) revolves around the dark side of human mind. The psyche that revolves around the material pleasures of the world, an attempt to find out a way out from the usual and



At the releasing of Bhogdandd at the hands of then CM Pratapsingh Rane, Chandrakant Keni and Nandakumar Kamat



With husband Pundalik and son Yugank

non challenging world. Hema tries to seek answers for this change. The female characters in Hema's literature are vibrant and radical. Exploring the different shades of human mind and behaviour, Hema's writings have broken the barriers of class and caste. Hema has charged and ignited the rebellious sentiments within the society.

The contribution of Hema in the field of literature and publishing has been recognized throughout India. The magazine *Chitrangi* was honoured with the Katha Journal award. The Federation of India Publishers, New Delhi bestowed the award for publishing. NMKRV College for women in Bangalore (now Bengaluru) conferred *Shashwati* and TMA Pai Foundation,

Manipal also conferred its Best Book Award for the novel *Bhogdandd*. Later in 2002, the same novel got the Sahitya Akademi Award. The work of Hema figures in the Volume III of *Knit India through literature*, a nationwide project of noted researcher and writer Sivasankari. The writings of Hema are also focused by the *Hot is the Moon*, a nationwide collection of poems and stories by Indian women, edited by Arundhati Subramaniam.

The contribution of Hema Naik to the translation cannot be undermined. Hema has five translation works to her credit and two are in the process of printing. This includes the autobiographies of Dr Premanand Ramani, Bhalchandra Mungekar and Narendra Jadhav.



Released Hanv Aso Ghaddlom

Alka Saravgi's *Kalikatha via Bypass* and Maria Aurora Couto's *Goa: the Daughters Story* are the translated novels in Konkani by Hema.

Hema's novel *Bhogdandd* is also translated into English by Prof. Prakash Thali and also was serialized in *Nahind Times*, Goa in 1998-99. Hema's short stories are also translated into English, Telugu, Hindi, Marathi and they are included in several anthologies and collections.

Her contribution to Marathi is also to be noted as she has been a regular columnist in Konkani-Marathi dailies also. Based on the recent incidents of molestations and rapes, her novel *Log Out* was serially published in *Dainik Herald* is well

appreciated by the readers.

Some of her articles and short stories are also included in educational text books. Taking into consideration Hema's contribution for the last 45 years in the literary, cultural, and social areas as a writer, editor, publisher, organizer, drama and film producer, Hema has been awarded and felicitated for her long service, which includes Jesuit Antonio Pereira Konkani Award by Thomas Stephan's Konkani Kendra in 1998 and 'Yashodamini Puraskar' in 2002 by Government of Goa, for the outstanding contribution to literature, 'State Reward' of Directorate of Art and Culture, Govt of Goa in 2009.

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Novels

Nirbala ani Mukti, Apurbai Prakashan, 1992, 100p
Bhogadandd, Apurbai Prakashan, 1997, 202p

Short stories

Pasay, Apurbai Prakashan, 1982, 90p.
Durgavataar, Apurbai Prakashan, 2009, 135p

Articles

Asturimrug, 1992, 77p.

One act plays

Bhaili Goddi, Apurbai Prakashan, 1984, 35p.

Translations from other languages to Konkani

<i>Mita Ani jaduche Moche</i> , New Delhi, National Book Trust, (children literature)	1996
<i>Tatth Kanno</i> , (An autobiography in Marathi by Dr. Premanand Ramani). Goa Konkani Academy	2006
<i>Kalikatha via Bypass</i> , (Novel in Hindi by Alka Saravagi) New Delhi, Sahitya Akademi.	2008
<i>Hanv Aso Ghaddlom</i> , (An autobiography in Marathi by Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar). New Delhi, Sahitya Akademi	2012
<i>Ancho Baap Ani Aami</i> , (An autobiography in Marathi by Dr. Narendra Jadhav), New Delhi, National Book Trust	2012

Anthology

<i>Aprup</i> , collection of Poems by woman poets. Apurbai Prakashan	1985
<i>Sahajivan, Sangharsh, Samanvaya and Pratima</i> , articles on women, Apurbai Prakashan	1989

Edited Journal

Kullagar, Kullagar Prakashan.

1994-1996

Films

Dekhanni Durai, Konkani Feature Film (1996) telecast on of Doordarshan with subtitles in 12 Indian Languages

Prizes and Awards

Konkani Bhasha mandal, Goa Award for <i>Nirbala ani Mukti</i>	1992
Katha Journal Award, New Delhi to Chitrangi	1994
Gomant Tejaswini Award by All India Women's Conference, Goa Branch	1996
Best Film Award and a Golden memento as a producer of Film <i>Dekhanni Durai</i> in the First Goa State Film Festival	1996
Jesuit Antonio Pereira Konkani Award for the contribution of Development of Konkani Language	1996
Kala Akademi State Literary Award for <i>Bhogadandd</i>	1997
Distinguished Publisher's Award by The Federation of Indian Publishers, New Delhi	1998
Dr T. M. A. Pai Foundation, Manipal	
Best Book Award to <i>Bhogadandd</i>	1998
NMKRV College for Women, Bangalore SHASHWATI Award to <i>Bhogadandd</i>	2001
Yashadamini Puraskar by Govt. of Goa for the outstanding contribution to Literature	2002
the Sahitya Akademi Award to <i>Bhogadandd</i>	2002
Directorate of Art & Culture, Govt. of Goa, State Reward for achievement & contribution to the field of Culture at National level	2007
Felicitated by Micro Creations, Panaji for best contribution to Literature	2012
Directorate of Art & Culture, Govt. of Goa, Cultural Award	2013

A CHRONOLOGY

1952	Birth at Margao, Goa
1973	Participated in world conference of women at Calcutta
1975 -1995	Served as Bank Employee
1977	Married Pundalik Naik
1980	First issue of the Yearly <i>Chitrangi</i>
1982	First book published <i>Pasay</i>
1982	Beginning of Women's Literary Meet
1985	Involvement in 'Konkani Projecho Awaaj', an agitation to make Konkani as official language and claim statehood
1990	Son Yugank born
1994	Katha Journal Award for Chitrangi
1995	Chairperson of Apurbai Chitra
1998	Fr. A. Pereira Award for Contribution to Konkani
2006	First translated book published <i>Tatth Kanno</i>