

Dr. Vandana Singh

M. B. R. R. V. Pd. Singh. College, ARA (Maharaja College, Ara)

## *Introduction to Women Writings: Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf*

*Due to social and cultural norms that limited women's freedom, women's writing in English literature grew over time. For a long time, women were not allowed to go to school, make their own money, or think freely. Even with these problems, women writers used literature to share their thoughts, feelings, and worries about society. Two of the most important writers in this style are Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf. Both writers, even though they lived during different literary eras, made important contributions to the growth of women's writing by writing about women's lives, questioning male values, and changing the way literature was written.*

### *The social background of women writers*

*Around the turn of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, men ran society. Women were mostly judged on their roles as wives and mothers because they were supposed to stay at home and take care of their families. Women were often thought to not be good at writing, so many women who wrote books did so secretly or under male names.*

*At the time that Jane Austen wrote, marriage was pretty much the only way for women to feel safe. At the same time that Virginia Woolf wrote, women were starting to fight for their rights to education, jobs, and politics. The way they wrote about these social issues shows how hard it was for women to find their own identities and be independent.*

### *"Men and Their Books" by Jane Austen*

*Jane Austen was one of the first and most important women to write novels in English. She is famous for her novels of manners, which show middle-class life truthfully and are about morals, relationships, and how to behave in public. *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, and *Mansfield Park* are some of her most famous books.*

*Marriage is a big part of Jane Austen's books. But she doesn't show*

Dr. Vandana Singh

M. B. R. R. V. Pd. Singh. College, ARA (Maharaja College, Ara)

marriage as just a romantic idea. Instead, she talks about how important it is for women's business and social lives. Female figures, like Elizabeth Bennet, are smart, able to think for themselves, and able to make moral choices. Austen questions the idea that women are less important than men through characters like these.

Austen's writing is easy to understand, funny, and true to life. She gives women's emotional and intellectual lives a lot of attention by using free indirect speech to show what her female characters are thinking. Austen is an important figure in women's writing, even though she doesn't publicly fight against patriarchy. Instead, she criticizes social norms in a subtle way.

### *Virginia Woolf and the writing of modernist women*

Virginia Woolf's writing shows that women's writing has come a long way since her time. She wrote some of the most important progressive works and fought hard for women's rights. Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, and Orlando are some of her most well-known books. An article she wrote called "A Room of One's Own" is also well known.

Unlike Austen, Woolf freely criticizes the way men control society and the way women are left out of education and literary history. In A Room of One's Own, she says that in order to write creatively, women need to be able to support themselves financially and have their own place. She talks about how social and economic issues have made it hard for women to become great writers.

The inner thoughts of the people in Woolf's books are more important than what happens in the outside world. She uses the stream of consciousness style to show how deep women's minds are. Her writing goes against the usual ways of telling stories and comes up with a new style that more accurately shows what women go through.

### *Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf side by side*

Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf are both important figures in women's writing, even though their styles and times are different.

- Austen writes realistic books that follow social norms, while

MJC 11

CC 11

BA VI

Dr. Vandana Singh

M. B. R. R. V. Pd. Singh. College, ARA (Maharaja College, Ara)

*Woolf tries out contemporary styles. • Austen criticizes women's reliance on marriage in a roundabout way, while Woolf openly attacks patriarchy.*

*• Austen writes about morals and social life, while Woolf writes about mental freedom and creativity.*

*• Austen paved the way for women to write novels, and Woolf created feminist literary review.*

*All of these books show how women's writing has changed over time, from social realism to feminist modernism.*

*Both Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf made important contributions to English fiction by women writers. Austen showed women as smart and socially strong people who lived in a society that was too strict, while Woolf pushed for women writers to have intellectual freedom and equal rights. Their writings not only show how women lived in their own times, but they also have an impact on feminist thought today. In their writings, both writers helped make women's literature an important part of English literature history.*