

INDIAN WOMEN IN INDEPENDENCE : A LITERARY SURVEY



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Annie Zaidi's *Name, Place, Animal, Thing*: A Study of Gender Dichotomy and Women's Status in Society

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Zaidi's play *Name, Place, Animal, Thing* is set in a typical upper-middle class apartment in an urban locality of Mumbai. The play consists of only two acts encompassing eleven scenes in the first act and three scenes in the second act. It depicts the conflict between two different worlds and focuses on the modern and the traditional values. The two worlds are the world of poor and the world of rich. The play presents other issues like generation gap and exploitation or subjugation of poor people who strive hard for their identity and dignity. Mr. Malik, his wife Mrs. Malik or Shalu, their adopted maid servant Nancy, her husband and sweeper Kunal, the cloth sailor Kapdu, the neighbour of Mr. and Mrs. Malik, Mrs. Rizvi or Rehana, her maid Insiya, the poor father of Nancy, Batua and a few neighbours in the apartment are characters in the play. Monali, the late daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Malik is referred throughout the play, but she is not physically present in the story. Mr. and Mrs. Malik, Mrs. Rizvi or Rehana represent the sophisticated world who have different problems whereas Nancy, Kapdu, Kunal, Insiya and Batua represent the world of poor people who fight for their survival and struggle hardly for their space and identity. Zaidi's play portrays suffering of poor people. The characters can be easily divided into two groups as per their class and status.

The gender and class dichotomy and the status of women in society are symbolically referred in the title of Zaidi's play. The