Introduction

Literature is a mirror to the society as it reflects and portrays the manifold socio-cultural aspects of the society irrespective of era. If post-independent Indian English poetry is taken into consideration, it can be seen that social issues that existed in Indian society have played a very important role in molding the literature in a peculiar way. The themes reflected in the Indian English Literature from time to time, discussed the multiple social struggles. More writers were attracted towards this field since they could openly discuss the social issues through literature.

Indian woman has been facing social obstacles right from the beginning of the history. Even before independence, they suffered humiliation and suppression in every aspect of her life. She was put behind the bars by the so-called social restrictions, norms and regulations. In different strata of the society she had to face various maladies of life. A double standard always waited for her inside and outside the society. The sacrificial role of woman still continues even in this 21st century, though we claim equality for masculine and feminine genders. “Women form the unequal half of our society- in terms of vulnerability, marginalization and exclusion in most of the cases, with few exceptions. Amongst all kinds of discriminations, female population of the country is struggling through the life: there are lot of issues to be addressed- falling sex ratio, poor literacy levels, weaker formal education levels, bad nutrition status, high morbidity and mortality, lesser leadership opportunities, lack of self-reliance, inadequate empowerment measures all these issues tend to affect this section predominantly, which is related to various socio-economic factors, environment, gender discrimination and domestic violence against women.”(VigyanPrasar, 2011).

On the other hand, there were many women rulers who were epitomes of valor and vitality in the past. It is a pale truth that woman remains to be a mere woman. This evoked the curiosity, anxiety or rather frustration for the writers. Thus, feminine sensibility has emerged as a main theme in the writings of different writers, especially contemporary woman poets.

The cases of sexual harassment and domestic abuse of women highlight the fact that even basic human rights were denied to them. In terms of mental health and educational empowerment they always take a back seat. The post-independent Indian English poetry has captured this scenario in its full essence and presented the identity crisis experienced by women in every walk of her
life. Woman had enjoyed a superior power while turning back the pages of Indian mythology. The female figures of Indian mythology-Gandhari, KunthiDevi, Sita Devi and Draupathi upheld the tradition of Indian society. The voice of feminism across the world influenced the Indian scenario as well, and India visualized the emergence of such a group of women social workers and women literary figures who used their medium of expression for addressing issues like feminine individuality and identity, equal rights and freedom for women, encoding the stereotypical clichés of male egoistical society and many other feminine sensible knowledge issues. “The concept of female identity shows us how female experience is transformed into female consciousness, often in reaction to male paradigms for female experience. It is an ideology that opposes the political, economic and cultural relegation of women to positions of inferiority. The critical project of Feminist critics is thus concerned with uncovering the contingencies of gender as a cultural, social and political construct and instrument of domination.”(ShilpaGoel, 2010).

It is highly interesting to study the feminine sensibility highlighted in the selected poems of the great Indian English Women Poets-Kamala Das and Eunice De Souza. A series of studies have been carried out previously as well to identify the image of women and several other feminine aspects of their poems still this topic remains new and fresh because of the universality of feminine sensibility. Feminine Sensibility is not restricted to a confined society or nation but extends beyond the horizons of culture and religion.

The exploration of female tradition in representing a theme of high relevance adds onto the charm and interest level of the research. The prominence and significance of these issues from a masculine point of view is an obvious objective of the study which renders a significant position for women writings and their woman conscious themes in the society. To a great extent these studies would serve the purpose of an eye opener resulting in a much secured and comfortable position for women in the social set up. Many of the issues and aspects mentioned and reflected through these literary works bring out the feminine perspective of a feminine issue providing an alertness and awareness to the woman community.

Poetry of Kamala Das and Eunice De Souza successfully portray the image of woman from different perspectives.

Kamala’s (1934-2009) poems present women as paradox of life. “Imaginatively she is of the highest importance, practically she is completely insignificant, she pervades poetry from cover to
cover, and she has all but absent from history. She dominates the life of kings and conquerors in fiction; in fact she is the slave of anybody whose parents forced a ring upon her finger. Some of the most inspired words, some of the most profound thoughts in literature fall from her lips, in real life she could hardly read, could scarcely spell, and was the property of her husband” .(Woolf: 1979;43). Kamala’s women always have a crisis of identity and depression from male superiority.

Eunice De Souza (1940) writes lyrical poems with passionate, soft and sensuous lines. The voice we hear in Eunice’s poems is not lament or weeping - it's a defiant voice. Our society certainly discriminates women and is still very violent towards them - more than half of Indian women are malnourished, women are still killed for dowry, sati, 'honour' - you name it. Yet, there is evidence of much protest, resistance and defiance - and you get that in Eunice's poetry. Her poems are a sort of ironic comment on patriarchal society. The hypothetical observation would be the way these woman poets rose to their potential exploring their inner strength and innate fire and thereby proved that they too can achieve social equality and self-identity.