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*Portrayal of women in Indian English fictions*  
*and human rights*

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### **Abstract:**

A person has "human rights," or inherent entitlements, just by virtue of their humanity. Everyone, regardless of background, race, religion, sexual orientation, or country of origin, has this as a fundamental human right. Human rights are vital for the full and equal participation in society of every member, and as such, they should be safeguarded and made accessible to everyone. The defence of human rights is an area where literature has made significant contributions. We may find the solace, hope, enthusiasm, and fortitude to fight for a better future for ourselves and the world around us in literature. Novels, short tales, and other works of literature reflect society as a whole. Novelists writing in English from India have a great awareness of the underlying incongruities with which we are constantly confronted in our daily lives. R.K. Narayan's heroes show the ironies of life, while his heroines show the plight of ordinary housewives who are denied basic civil liberties. Great humanitarian Mulk Raj Anand cares deeply about the plight of his fellow humans. The miserable existence of Assamese tea plantation workers is shown by Manohar Malgoankar. Kamla Markandeya draws attention to the dismal living circumstances of Indian farmers. Women's lack of access to social justice is shown by Anita Desai. The cases of sexual assault of minors are brought to light by Khuswant Singh and Salman Rushdie. Thus, literature conveys the human experience, touching the hearts of people wronged by the denial of fundamental human rights.

### **Keywords:**

Human rights, literature, women, injustice, incongruity.