

## Chapter I

### Multiplicity of Choices in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*

This dissertation is aimed at explicating Doris Lessing's novel *The Golden Notebook* (1962) from the perspective of existential feminism. Anna Wulf is presented as an assertive character in the novel. She not only dismantles the conventional role models of female set by patriarchy but also vies to develop for herself, a different identity in the society. The projection of the female self is worthy of presentation. Anna is a scholar, a prominent writer of mid 1950s, a communist and also a radical member of the society who refutes confirming the traditional gender roles of the society. This project therefore provides a broader vantage point to view the novel *The Golden Notebook* from a new perspective. Lessing's projection of her female character is an assertive role dismantling all the walls erected by the patriarchy that epitomizes her with blurred gender roles.

Lessing's projection of female character with the realization of self and the embodiment as a social servant and satiate figure at the end heading towards the light redeems and renews the concept of female gender. The transformation of Anna's self and her volitional self-emptying subverts the ethics of patriarchy and also confers her new self in the society. Though, in the beginning she is found to be a play thing, an object for the male counterparts but later in the novel she goes on subverting the roles of a female. She vies for the autonomy and makes a distinct identity in the society. Lessing afterward proves that females are not meant for domination and confinement, rather they are highly valued as part of the society. The traditional notion of the female gender comes at the stake with the projection of Anna in different role model.

Lessing, one of the foremost prominent contemporary female writers- Nobel Prize winner for literature in 2007- was born as May Taylor in Persia on October 22, 1919 to Alfred Cook Taylor, her father and her mother Emily Maude Taylor. In 1949, she published her first novel, *The Grass is Singing* and began her career as a professional writer. Her fiction is deeply autobiographical, much of it emerging out of her experiences in Africa. Drawing upon the childhood memories, her personality and the conflict between the individual conscience and the collective good, her stories and novels are set in Africa which were published during fifties and early sixties about dispossession of black Africans by white colonials and exposed the sterility of the white culture in Southern Africa. Over the years Lessing has attempted to accommodate what she admires in the novels of the nineteenth century in their “climate of ethical judgment” to the demands of the twentieth century ideas about consciousness and time.

After writing the *Children of Violence* series(1951-1959), a formally conventional *bilungsroman* (novel of education) about the growth in consciousness of her heroine, Martha Quest, Lessing broke new ground with *The Golden Notebook* (1962), a daring narrative experiment in which the multiple selves of a contemporary women are rendered in astonishing depth and detail. Across the globe, the abundant widespread texts of Lessing are being studied. Lessing, the Persian-born, is a multi-dimensional writer who also has written under the pseudonym Jane Somers. Lessing has published *The Grass is Singing* (1950), *The Golden Notebook* (1962), *The Good Terrorist* (1985), *The Fifth Child* (1988 and so on. *The Golden Notebook* had been first published in Great Britain by Michael Joseph Ltd 1962 and new edition 1972. It had been previously published in paperback by Penguin 1964, Grafton 1973(reprinted thirteen times), and Paladin 1962 (reprinted three times) and by Flamingo as a

Flamingo Modern Classic 1993(reprinted six times). *The Golden Notebook* has been published by Harper Collins Publishers in Harper Perennial Modern Classics edition 2007. Anna Wulf, like Lessing herself, strives for ruthless honesty as she aims to free herself from the chaos, emotional numbness and hypocrisy afflicting her generation. Dominantly in a realist tradition most of the social, political, psychological issues are presented and the feminine consciousness, history to feminine, society and feminine sensibilities subjects are considerably found in Lessing's texts.

In Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*, Lessing's protagonist, Anna Wulf, is a female writer, divorced and freewoman who defines a principal conundrum of modern life by speculating that twentieth century society involves confrontation with search of identity; cultural, relational, individual, psychic, and sexual freedom. Anna Wulf, Lessing's protagonist struggles for the identity throughout the novel. She seeks freedom from every kind of relation and limitation. She carries her life as a free woman in search of identity, divorces her husband and brings up her daughter alone and she thinks that married life confines her and deteriorates her career and no longer wants to remain in such confinement and with whom she does not like, Max Wulf, her husband and commences her own way of life. She longs for freedom and blurs the boundary of being confined in the married life and quests for the identity being free woman, responsible mother, writer, political member, and social worker and finally in affair with a man. As she lives being divorced, she finds herself confined of culturally and psychologically however she runs her life and her daughter's educational and other expenditures from the royalty coming of her novel *Frontiers of War*, once the best seller, joins the political party and finally joins a job. She has a liaison with her colleagues and stranger before and after the divorce as well, keeps four notebooks; the black notebook, the red notebook, the yellow notebook and the blue notebook.

Each notebook consists of diverse matters that the black notebook, which is to do with Anna Wulf the writer; the red notebook, concerned with politics; the yellow notebook, in which she makes stories out of her experiences; and the blue notebook which tries to be a diary and Anna eventually ends each Notebook to then start an important and new “Golden Notebook” recording the descent into madness of Anna and her American lover Saul Green, the inner Golden Notebook shows ‘break down’ into each other, into other people who form wholes and holds the key to the recovery. She takes excessive advantages of freedom by keeping sexual relationships, keeping notebooks and wishes for the personal identity and secured life. But Anna defies her free life and sets her sense of quest for personal identity. Since she is a divorced woman and does not want to be confined by any kind of relation however she tangles herself having liaison and excessive indulgence in which she argues that “she suffers sex desire in a vacuum. She is actually humiliated, thinking that this means she is dependent on men for ‘having sex’, for ‘being serviced’, for ‘being satisfied’ (401)”. Through Ella, Anna actually explores her own experiences. Like Anna, Ella suffers from sexual desire and rejection in love relationship. Such betrayal profoundly affects her psyche, loses her feelings of self-confidence and independence. Why does Anna quest for autonomy and identity even she is free from married life and identity? Is keeping liaison and sexual indulgence is the liberty and fulfilling desires is real identity? Why women are supposed sub-ordinate and suppressed? Why does society create boundary of autonomy and different identity? Are freedom and identity different on gender basis? People quest autonomy and identity only if they are suppressed, dominated and exploited but she has liberty and choices as she desires even hungers for the autonomy which has made this research pertinent.

Generally people desire to spend their sophisticated and luxurious life and Anna's quest for autonomy and identity even in divorced life which she already has in some way is her choice to spend her trouble-free and dignified life. Although keeping liaison and sexual indulgence is not liberty and fulfilling desire is not an identity but some people have more desire than normal man, so might be in the case of Anna that the desire assists to create one's identity that one does not have his/her own identity until and unless he takes a risk at his own. Nothing new could be created and achieved with bare hands and without desire; satisfaction makes a man lethargic and worthless, that to have something one has to work hard and struggle in difficulties. Circumference of autonomy is created to suppress and exploit and to take advantages out of their obligations. So is in the case of identity. Even if freedom and identity are not different on the gender basis, the society has prejudiced and biased judgment of it. Therefore Anna, the protagonist is peripheral, sub-ordinate and cannot assert herself because of patriarchal and puritan mores, and ideological discursiveness. The freedom she wishes for may be of equivalent and carefree to both male and female and her quest for identity is unique and outstanding in order to fulfill the zenith of freedom and secured life.

It is claimed that the woman occupies peripheral positions because freedom and personal identity are restrained even in a free life, because these are limited by power, patriarchy, ideology and social norms. Exploring trial and error, human beings mould themselves and upshot in a better state; experiment with life goes on and synthesizes as an idea and the way to exit out of the predicament that facilitates him/her achieving the intended goal. In Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*, Anna sets out the journey full of trials and errors in the search of freedom and personal identity

that there are many events which include suffering of Anna that is like sexual, identity crisis, socio-political and cultural and gender discrimination.

Many critics and writers have interpreted the novel from the perspectives of philosophical exploration, Michael Thorpe is one of them who puts his idea about the novel and argues:

The discussion of *The Golden Notebook* in chapter 7 is flawed by this inability to access concretely and the role played by metaphorical African in the construction of that novel. If geographical Africa is the 'reality' and metaphorical Africa the 'dream', then the study is only half complete. Lessing's 'Zambesia' is a physical place. (266)

Here, Michael Thorpe views this novel *The Golden Notebook* as a metaphorical point of view, he sees the geographical Africa in the reality and metaphorical in the dream that it is not complete study of its real physicality.

Furthermore, Thorpe also declares:

"I view Lessing's protagonists," opens Rubenstein, "as representative figures in the larger mythic sense, in their symbolic roles as 'every person' - an identification that includes but goes beyond their sexual identities." Her study pursues the "larger continuity," how through all Lessing's protagonists' phases, lover, wife, mother, Communist and feminist." (267)

Thorpe criticizes this novel from the post-modern perspective that Lessing's protagonists have multiple identities that are personal self and the communal amalgamate which is more than the myth and symbolic roles. Similarly, another critic Roberta Rubenstein comments that inadequate reciprocity cannot resolve and account the mutual relationship and states:

So the self-reflective self, founded in the never-ending oscillation between appearance and being, is also caught within an inescapable contradiction: the various discourses constituting the “book” are both essential, for it is through them that the self materializes as both substance and the process for its own observation, and inadequate, for they cannot account for, and therefore will be constantly disrupted by, the direct immediacy of either experience or emotion. (480-481)

Rubenstein criticizes that the author’s concern is with the metaphor of sight as it informs relationship; the absence of “reciprocity” in “self-other oppositions” offers an index of psychological relationships in several. Likewise, Mark Spilka studies the novel as an ironical account of report that the intellectual women are expanding their dilemmas by accepting it as a novel. In this regard he asserts:

It is one of the ironies of *The Golden Notebook* that it too may be taken as a report “sold across frontiers”-by male readers like Howe or myself for instance, as we eavesdrop on intellectual women, or even by feminist readers looking for extensions of their own dilemmas; but I for one wouldn’t want to dispense with this old-fashioned orienting function of the novel, except as Lessing sees it as degenerating into mere journalism and expressing only our current fragmentation. (224-225)

Mark Spilka comments that to take *The Golden Notebook* as a report is an irony and many women are widening their dilemmas accepting it as a novel whereas for Lessing it is worsening into sheer journalism and expressing only our existing division.

Moreover, Dagmar Barnouw comments that the male and female relationship does not

perpetuate because of much importance provide to early safety. Parenthetically

Barnouw says:

Relationships between a man and a woman remain “incredibly difficult”; it is, however, no longer enough to state that fact, no matter how intelligently and lucidly. Variations of “It’s all very odd, isn’t?” are not acceptable anymore because they place too much importance on premature safety. Sexual liberation is possible only if it includes the “other,” the man who was so obviously not included in *The Golden Notebook*; it will have to begin again- from the beginning- as the process of contemplation of the “familiar problem of identity and will.” (500)

Dagmar Barnouw comments that the relationship between male and female remains extremely difficult due to the preference given on untimely security even if it is undertaken more wisely and carefully and the sexual liberation is only if the man considers with well-known problem of personality and will. Furthermore, Judith Grossman assesses the reviews of Lessing’s *The Golden Notebook* and finds her text frank on communal practicality and asserts:

Looking at reviews of her early work up to and including the groundbreaking *The Golden Notebook* (1962), I’m struck not just by the old-styles references to the author as “Mrs. Lessing,” but by the conservative analogies her talent evoked: in England she was compared to Jane Austen, and in America Mary McGrory found her writing on sexual themes equal in its frank precision to that of John O’Hara. From a present perspective, social realism, in her accounts of women (mostly). (11)

Judith Grossman struck with the assessment of Lessing with Jane Austen, Mary McGrory and John O'Hara where her writing is found of social realism perspective that accounts mostly of women. Similarly, Pinki Chhetri in her thesis "*The Golden Notebook: A Feminist Trauma Narrative*" claims that the protagonist of the novel is the representative character of the twentieth century who confronts trauma and undergoes through difficult situation and states:

The challenges of twentieth century society involve the confrontation with existential, cultural, relational, and psychic trauma. The story of Anna resonate the experiences of traumatic events that shatter the social and psychological indemnificatory ego and precipitate engages herself into coherent and manageable fictional stories. (50)

Pinki Chhetri comments that the twentieth century society is full of trauma and the novel *The Golden Notebook* is the account of Anna's experiences of traumatic events.

There have been numerous criticisms regarding *The Golden Notebook* of Lessing; many critics observed her novel from different perspectives. But none of aforementioned critics and reviewers have mentioned any criticism and review in the topic that I have estimated to carry on research, hence, my thesis is going to be innovative and a novel one.

This thesis is a library as well as web based research which is carried with critical discourse analysis method and under the supervisor's guidance. It has been researched from the lens of existentialist feminism. It is influenced by existentialism especially of Sartre and De Beauvoir. Existentialism is the philosophy that places importance on individual existence, freedom, and choice. Existentialism is probably the most dynamic and appropriate philosophical movement to define and interpret the anxiety and the uncertainties of the human existence. It is a doctrine which makes

human life possible and in addition, declares that every truth and every action implies a human setting and a human subjectivity. 'Existence precedes essence' is the most popular existentialist credo. The universe does not provide moral rules and the moral rules are constructed by humans in the context of being responsible for their actions and the actions of other. Individuals have complete freedom of the will. Beauvoir argues that existentialism would be the perspective out of which she will be able to understand women's situation and believed that existentialist feminism can offer an analysis of women's oppression and their freedom.

The key concept of existentialist feminism is "Woman as other" that women are oppressed by virtue of "otherness, the object whose meaning is determined for her. Beauvoir opines that woman is the product of civilization. In her own words, "One is not born, but rather becomes a woman. No psychological or economical fate determines the figure that the human female presents in the society. It is civilization as a whole that produces this creature" (301). She prescribes that woman must become a self, a subject who transcends definitions, labels, and essences. For Beauvoir, woman is a warrior and she is emancipated within herself. Woman as a subordination is mere ideological discursive. She must make herself whatever she wants to be rather to be reared by women within a feminine world, a woman's normal destiny is marriage as the male-dominated and constructed society indoctrinates. The idea of the equality and similarity of all human beings was essential to Beauvoir's feminism. She believed that it is women's human status that will allow full subjectivity to women. Therefore, Beauvoir was always explicit on two issues: that there is no feminine specificity and that one must not reject male models.

Sartre's subject-in-love is easily recognizable in Beauvoir's male who comes to the sex act as master. However, as a woman Beauvoir approached sexuality from

another point of view. The man comes as a subject, as used to 'transcendence' but embarrassed by his bodily involvement in which his transcendence is compromised. For Beauvoir he must come to terms with the fact that he is a body, an uncontrollable physicality and the woman on the other hand comes to the sex act as immanence, as flesh, not only because this is the way man sees her, but also because of her role is reproduction. Since she already suffers the immanence of reproduction, she must struggle even harder for her dignity where the man used to autonomy and control, will be the initiator. Beauvoir asserted, every woman must remember her first 'deflowering', which must always be a kind of rape of her body. Given the anatomy of the sex act, given the fact of male penetration, women will always have to play a more passive role, if not suffer a kind of defilement or pollution. Women are always the sex object. The only possible answer was reciprocity that Sartre had left open only the possibility of an alteration of roles; each lover could have his or her turn at being subject. Beauvoir went a step ahead of Sartre's view of sex act as manipulative, family disgusting play with female flesh. She tried to abridge the existentialist distance between lovers. She sees no longer hostile if the man sees his pleasure coming from the woman, and is therefore dependent; the woman gives herself as a gift and is therefore active and keeps her dignity where both accept their situation and transcend it. Once the woman is seen as a subject, then reciprocity in the sex act is possible. Two equal subjects now confront each other, give to each other and enjoy each other.

To study Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* as the assertion of female identity, existentialist feminism will be the major theoretical apparatus. Mainly, how Lessing has employed the scenario of betrayal, anxieties and the domination and the resistance and assertion of the female identity despite such crucial situation will be the target of

the study. This study is thus expected to be significant in bringing out the feminist issues ignored till now. It will add an element on the horizon of critical perspectives of *The Golden Notebook* and the writer as well. Although this thesis makes significant use of concepts developed in existentialist feminism, it neither offers the whole existentialism nor a comprehensive analysis of feminist theory as a whole rather than analysis of existentialist feminism as conceptualized by Beauvoir will be the primary apparatus to analysis. Since the research is oriented in Lessing's text, with the given nature of the research, available time frame and resources, this study does not offer the detail analysis of Lessing's other texts, other characters, even though such an analysis would definitely contribute in unearthing the complexity of freedom and sexuality of Lessing's crucial female protagonist.

Eventually, to talk about the form and internal design of the research, the whole research is divided into three chapters in which the first chapter covers the part of introduction of the female issues in the novel. It also includes the portion of hypothesis of the research to reveal the appropriation of its hypothesis as the reliable one for the research. It explains in brief about the whole project information, about the author herself, her literary information, the synopsis of the novel, the scholarly criticisms and reviews of the play, and the theoretical apparatus through which the entire study has been conducted. The second chapter is the main part of the research in which the analysis of the text will be done through the insights developed in existential feminism to unveil the crisis of identity of females their attempts to assert it in various forms. And the third chapter is the conclusion of the whole project that restates the outcomes of the research.

## Chapter II

### Strife for Identity amid Diversities in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*

Lessing's prize winning novel, *The Golden Notebook* (1962) mirrors multiple issues of 1950s and 1960s through her protagonist, Anna Wulf. Anna Wulf is given an assertive role by Lessing who advocates for the freedom of choice to woman. She educates the women to live life without any pressure of patriarchy.

Anna Wulf, by challenging masculine trends, sets up feminine forces to show that women can survive by doing different jobs like men in this diverse society. Anna Wulf, a divorced woman, single-handedly takes care of her daughter. She confronts with variety of obstacles to which she utters, "The point is that as far as I can see, everything is cracking up" (25). By saying so Anna expresses the bitter reality of so called advanced European society in the 1950s and 1960s. She doesn't want to live in confinement shaped by male dominated society; rather she wants freedom. She tries to be as capable as man. She sees multiple choices ahead. Thus, she decides to live as a free woman, looking after her daughter. That is to say, it is her own choice to divorce from her husband Michael years ago when he attempted to underestimate her thinking as if she were inferior to him.

Anna shares her free life with her friend Molly, who is too alike Anna: "It's a pleasure," said Anna. "But do you know something I discovered while you were away that for a lot of people you and I are practically interchangeable" (26). The textual quote where Anna elucidates that they are getting entertainment from their life that's why the people around them are backbiting. Anna and Molly do not care what people say at the back rather they are happy in their life. After having pleasure they are pursuing their female identity which is hard to get in patriarchal society. The term 'identity' is one's own existence in the society. Identity concerns with female rights

that is lost in male capitalist society. Because of no identity women are treated as 'other' or 'object'. To Judith Keyan Gardiner: "The word 'identity' is paradoxical in itself, meaning both sameness and distinctiveness, and its contradictions proliferate when it is applied to women" (347). Gardiner's term 'contradiction' escalates when woman breaks the classical norms of male.

Gardiner's idea resembles with Anna and Molly when they jump into the world of freedom without carrying any norms and values moulded by old people. Anna and Molly do not like to depend on the shelter of men that's why they discard their husbands yet. They face many difficulties to establish their own free world.

Both Anna and Molly choose freedom depending on their own feet. To be free is not easy; they have to fight with many complexities in their life. Anna is a free woman and she wants to enjoy her freedom by keeping physical relationship with other men which indicates that she is wringing men to accomplish her own desire just like men used to do in the past as well as in the present too Anna's point of view about free woman is: 'Free woman', said Anna, wryly. She added, with anger new to Molly, so that she earned another quick scrutinizing glance from her friend. They still define us in terms of relationship with men, even the best of them." (26) The quote above reflects Anna and Molly's freedom is questioned by society. They chose free life from the confinement of husband, a representation of local patriarchy and start free life even though they cannot enjoy their freedom.

That is to say, identity is still losing even at their freedom as Kolmar and Bartkowski assert: "In truth woman has not been socially emancipated through man's need- sexual desire and the desire for offspring- which makes male dependent for satisfaction upon the female" (Kolmar and Bartkowski 148). Moreover, they say, "Even within the working class the men endeavored to restrain woman's liberation,

because they began to see the women as dangerous competitors” (Kolmar and Bartkowski 150).

Kolmar and Bartkowski point out that it is the male made notions which have captured women identity realizing their potentiality. Males are afraid of being substituted and losing their control over women to quench their thirsts easily. It will not be as easy to fulfill male desires as females’ freedom is in the clutch of male than in their complete freedom patriarchy abducts women identity in the name of different mores. Existentialism defines that both man and woman are free to choose their life but for woman it is hard to utilize their freedom because of conventional rules of society. Furthermore, Anna’s above point view can be justified by Simon de Beauvoir’s notion on freedom: “What is the relationship between an individual’s freedom and the givenness of his or her situation? What is the nature of self-identity? How is the individual related to society? What is ontological structure of an individual’s relation to the world?” (qtd. In Sipe 12)

Beauvoir raises multiple questions on the behalf of woman in patriarchal society in this above quotation. The first and foremost thorough questioning she makes conscious about individual freedom which is essential in life even though it includes both gender. Besides, Beauvoir focuses on the self-identity which should be come together with freedom. Apart from these issues, she also interrogates the relationship between societies and individual as well as what is the role of individual in this gigantic. It is clear to all, all human beings are compelled to the life; there are plenty of roads of choice and which road to select depends on person to person. In case of Anna and Molly who both detach from husbands and living complete free life by taking care of their children.

The so called superior males have established many rules and regulations to exploit women for long time; one of them is 'marriage' which is regarded as a culture in almost all society but behind his culture there is huge exploitation towards woman throughout their life. Marriage is a social norm established by men to take physical and mental advantages over the women. Regarding marriage Molly, one of central characters after Anna while expressing her anger: "I haven't seen a marriage yet that came anywhere near what it's supposed to be all. All right. But you're careful to keep out of it. It's a hell of an institution, I agree. But I'm involved in it, and you're preaching from some pretty safe sidelines" (47).

This textual evidence is which Molly, Anna's close friend exposes her exhaustion about marriage. As per Molly, marriage is a social institution which is not different than hell and she pleads Anna to come out of this crack. Molly's warning to keep away from marriage seriously denotes women's disagreement in this legal institution. Women are made 'other' especially after marriage because man thinks that he is the supreme leader of house who attempts to keep under control but it doesn't remain longer. Women like Molly and Anna eventually are compelled to separate from their husbands; marriage for them becomes a place where there freedom is snatched by their husband. There finds many women like Anna and Molly in this society.

Concerning marriage as delineated by Molly whose view seems clear and meaningful when Pratt claims her view in favour of women: "A woman as soon as she is married is called covert, in Latin, *nupta*, which is veiled as it were, clouded and overshadowed. She has lost her stream... To a married woman her new self is her superior, her companion, her master" (Pratt 872).

While analyzing Pratt's attitude after marriage woman has no existence when she gets married and she is taken to man's house. By borrowing the words like 'nupta', 'veiled', 'covert', 'overshadowed' tries to make vivid the position completely changes after getting husband who calls himself as master and its opposite wife or woman is 'servant', other. Woman is totally covered by the umbrella of male power. Women's liberty is captured in four walls of a house which is uncontrollable to woman that results in divorce, detachment and separation as Anna and Molly do in the novel.

Lessing through her bold characters like Anna and Molly tends to teach other women to live life by breaking marriage if they are compelled to lose their emancipation by their husband. 'Marriage', in fact the formal union of a man and a woman, typically recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife but when husband acts as superior in this equal participation and no woman remains silent till long time. Both man and woman, indeed, are existentially free to choose their life that's why no one wants to live in confinement.

To be human being one needs to be free; this freedom is the source of building good career. Besides, freedom leads wherever one desires like men and women also desire or full-fledged freedom in their life. After getting freedom, human beings try to spend his/ her life by doing different sorts of entertainment. Among various pleasure and fun the 'sexual intercourse' is one that cannot be compared with any other entertainment. Due to this sexual fun women are treated as 'playing toy' by hands of men. Women are just categorized as 'sex object'. The sexual relationship is equally needed and important to both gender, male and female but the society always prioritizes male sexual freedom. Males are utterly free to have sex with many women in many societies. Women are made prostitutes, slaves for the physical entertainment.

Both physical and psychological attachment is essential to have sex but in patriarchal society men want sex just for physical amusement.

Freedom propels women to keep free sexual relationship like men. Like men women cannot expose their physical desire in front of men; if they do show, they are regarded as characterless women. That is to say, sexual relation for men mostly attach with physical and emotional or psychological. In the novel, the major character Molly states to Anna, “Physical you say? Physical? It’s an emotional you started sleeping around early in your marriage because you had an emotional problem; it’s nothing to do with physical” (48). Above quote manifests woman’s reality in sexual relationship who asserts more on emotion rather than physical.

When maturity appears in human body, each human being desires physical attachment with opposite gender. By dint of male dominated society men are liberal to express their sexual desire in front of any woman but it is very hard and harsh for woman. Woman has to think twice to share such desire to any members of society. It is restricted to keep easy sexual act to woman in the society where males’ voices are given emphasis.

Richard, a minor character, ex-husband of Molly in the novel *The Golden Notebook* utters male’s voice on the behalf of sex: “No, it’s not easy to talk frankly about sex to women” (48). The following quote stated by Richard indicates free women’s boldness in society. Molly and her friend Anna, both are free and divorced from their husbands. No man can order them saying do this and do that. That’s why Richard who is himself ex-husband of Molly is afraid with her. He cannot force her to have sex.

That is to say, freedom makes women courageous not only having physical relationship but also in various purposes. Indeed to be free is to do so many things

alone without any assistance or men. Hence freedom is most essential thing in life. Women ought to be freedom to challenge men then there appear some changes in the days to come. As Anna regards: "I daresay. But it occurred to me- if we lead what is known as free lives, that is, lives like men, why shouldn't we use the same language? Because we aren't same. That is the point. Anna laughed. Man. Women. Bound. Free. Good Bad. Yes, No. Capitalism. Socialism. Sex. Love..." (59)

Aforementioned view of Anna, central character of novel sheds light on the equality of male and female. Her syntax "Why shouldn't we use the same language?" strongly requests women to follow what men do and behave in society. Man and woman is the same human being yet, only women are being treated as other by men. Finally, Anna also talks about 'freedom in having sex and love like men. Ana involves women to take pleasure physically and mentally.

Anna's attitude towards male female relationship seems quite relevant that both male and female should be treated in equal manner; however, men regarded themselves as superior than women where women are heavily suppressed but time has changed now and women should be free to create their own identity.

The more strong argument can be found from Simon de Beauvoir on behalf of gender relationship: One of the insights given by Beauvoir is that women are the product of civilization. In her own words: "One is not born, but rather becomes a woman. No psychological or economical fate determines the figure that the human female presents in the society. It is the civilization as a whole that produces this creature," (qtd. in D' Souza 25)

This dissertation is based on Beauvoirian existential feminism in which Beauvoir's notion seems adequate to include the condition of women who wants to be free like man. Beauvoir's slogan "One is not born rather becomes a woman" is the

best proof of gender equality. By birth no baby is considered as either man or woman but it is the society established by patriarchy defines female as woman and this civilization that has defines female as woman or male as man, Beauvoir blames the human civilization is based on masculine gender. Beauvoir rejects both psychological and emotional fate which has no role to make women as 'other', 'object', etc.

Freedom cannot be get as easy as one thinks; freedom is equally important to either male or female because both are condemned to be free. On account of patriarchal values and norms women's freedom are snatched when they get married to men. These women who are bold and conscious that their existential freedom is grabbed by their husbands often protest and seek freedom from their husbands. Lessing presents such bold and active female character in his fiction, *The Golden Notebook*. As mentioned previously, for they are Anna and her friend Molly want to live independent life by separating from their husbands. But even in her free life their identity is missing somewhere because of the patriarchal system. They enjoy their free life after divorce by doing different job. They freely engage in sexual relationship with whosoever and as many man as they like which is actually regarded as men's proud in the society.

Though Anna and Molly's marriage are broken but they are ready to take challenge by doing their work like men; in this context Anna express: "Both of us are described to the proposition that we are though- no listen. I'm serious. I mean a marriage breaks up, well, we say, our marriage was a failure, too bad. A man ditches us- too bad we say it's not important. We bring up kids without men- nothing to it, we say we can cope" (66).

The quote above expressed by Anna to her friend Molly is an example of free and competent woman in society. Both Anna and Molly are somehow ready to accept

that their marriage is regarded as failure but they don't like to regret about their break up with their husbands. It is the road which they have intentionally chosen that's why they like to bring up their kids without any man's help. Money is the significant thing that gives woman power and this power provides freedom and independency. They take it marriage as for granted and assert freedom.

Anna, a central character of the novel is a writer by profession whose popular work of art *The Frontiers of War* is highly appreciated. By the royalty of this book she is enjoying her free life without anyone's help. Anna along with her close friend Molly is free to have sex any man whom they wish. To have sex is not big deal for them, they take it easily. Their view towards sex is as normal as men. By taking sexual pleasure they do not only get satisfaction but also challenge men. Anna's perspective towards sex is found through her "Black Notebook" by her fictional character: "Two people can be sexually incompatible who are perfectly happy in bed with other people, as if they very chemical structures of their bodies were hostile. Well, Willi and I understood this so well that our vanity wasn't involved" (83).

The given extract is taken from Anna's "Black Notebook" that is indirectly her own words though it is expressed by her characters. As per Anna to keep sexual relationship there should be mutual understanding, interconnection between male and female. The intercourse between unknown people never provides full-fledged pleasure. Bodily pleasure does not satisfy rather there should be psychological harmony between man and woman. Anna being a free woman emphasizes on sex but she makes conscious her audiences to keep it in full agreement.

The novel, *The Golden Notebook* where Lessing through her valiant characters Anna and Molly interprets many sexual relationships that makes this novel as a document of sexual intercourse but her purpose does not remain on sexual attachment

rather she wants to teach women to take pleasures like men but pleasure should be done in mutual consensus. Beauvoir's own perspective presented in her famous text *The Second Sex* valorizes sex:

Beauvoir, in her open treatment of sexuality agreed with Sartre that physical desire is not a simple physiological response. Desire come first and the physical manifestation of desire later. Sex cannot be seen as simple subjective, pleasure like scratching an itch or drinking a glass of water. Sexuality is no longer a physical function outside politics, appropriately discussed by scientists. (D' Souza 28)

As Beauvoir elucidates sexual mystery is not only a common work like 'drinking water' and 'scratching the skin' rather more than that. She also clarifies that sexuality is not merely physical function but it has deep relationship with heart, physic. Society takes women's desire for sexuality as taboo, vulgarity but Beauvoir takes it for granted. She takes it positively but she focuses on equal participation of male and female.

Physical relationship is essential to both man and woman. Desire is same to both gender but men just take sex as for fun; women are treated as sex object while women never think sex in such sense. It is real that first of all human beings need freedom and in freedom mankind look for pleasure and sexual pleasure is unquenchable to human being. Woman are made child bearing machine by men.

In the text, Anna from her "Black Notebook" dramatizes the character sketch of men through her fictional characters: "George came to kiss me, 'Beautiful Anna, Beautiful Anna- but I cannot have you because of this bloody man, Willi. Then he ousted Ted, kissing Maryrose on her averted cheek, and said: All the beautiful women there are in the world and we only have two of them it makes me want to cry" (112).

The following quote from Anna in her “Black Notebook” where male character, George and Ted make fun to female characters. They just take sexual act as a game of pleasure and women are just taken as object of sexual pleasure. Anna’s characters like Maryrose is not free in her life that’s why she has to obey her husband, therefore, Anna in her own life remains freedom from her husband to secure her identity but still her identity is missing somewhere.

Anna is different than other women who are especially submissive towards their husbands. Anna has chosen this freedom to live her life without any obstacle from any man. But even in her free life she is not thoroughly free. Anna’s view about sexual relationship between husband and wife can be known while she says to Maryrose, “Challenged now, I would say that every woman believes in her heart that if her man does not satisfy her she has right to go to another” (142).

In this extract Anna makes women to be bold and to select the man who gives full pleasure from both physical and psychological aspect. Anna emphasizes sexual act with the essence of marriage. As per Anna sexual act is not only done to bear child but it has more which combines two genders together. Maryrose does not feel satisfaction from her husband but she has no courage to go to other man that’s why Anna suggests Maryrose to choose the path where she feels easy to go on.

If both male and female do not take satisfaction in sexual intercourse their life cannot go smoothly; they have to face various obstacles, thus, satisfaction is essential factor in physical attachment. In this content D’ Souza opines: “The man sees his pleasure as coming from the woman, and is therefore dependent; the woman gives herself as a gift and is therefore active and keeps her dignity. Both accepts their situation but transcend it” (D’ Souza 30).

D' Souza considers sexual action which is 'dependent' for man and 'dignity' for woman but finally sexual act leads into transcendental world. As per D' Souza both man and woman are perceiving pleasure in sex. D' Souza's view is primarily based on the notion of Simon de Beauvoir who also valorizes equal participation both physically and psychologically in sexual act. That is to say, Anna in the novel suggests Maryrose to go away if she is not fulfilled sexually by her husband. Actually, it is true but only few women can do this action whereas most of the women curse their luck and they always become ready to spend their life with their wicked husbands.

As mentioned earlier that having mere living together in the logo of husband and wife the life does not go as smoothly as women think. Women often lose their identity after getting marriage; from an unmarried woman she is tagged as married woman and her introduction is provided to her by her husband. Anna, the central character of this novel is a writer, a divorced woman who single handedly rearing her daughter without any male's help. Her popular novel, *The Frontiers of War* has uplifted her popularity as a renowned writer in the society.

Ella, the female protagonist of Anna's "Yellow Notebook" is in fact replica of Anna, herself. Anna disguising herself as Ella reflects women's problems occurred in various situations: "The last few weeks with George were a nightmare of self-contempt and hysteria, until at last she left his house, to put and to it, to put a distance between herself and the man who suffocated her, imprisoned her apparently took away her will" (172).

The following extract Ella seriously expresses her reality with her husband George. Ella is losing everything after George, as her husband. Like man, woman too wants freedom but after marriage man attempts to imprison woman. Woman is just

considered as mere 'other' as a consequences woman thinks herself as a hysteric, sick prisoner in her husband's house. In the novel, Ella though Anna's central character from her "Yellow Notebook" she is Anna's photocopy or carbon copy. The extract tells clearly that Ella left her husband's house so Anna too already had left her house because the satiation was quite unbearable to her. Ella and Anna's leaving home is in search of real freedom, identity, pleasure rather than breaking the values and norms of society which is erected by male dominated system.

As it is known to many women's freedom primarily has been snatched when the marriage takes place. Indeed marriage is taken as legal institution set by men to exploit women. In the novel, Ella, Anna, Molly and Julia are all made victim more since their marriage that's why they seek freedom to exist in this world. That is to say, Beauvoir argues: "Marriage, as we have seen, is directly correlated with prostitution, which, it has been said, follows humanity from ancient to modern times like a dark shadow over the family" (Beauvoir 568).

The quote criticizes marriage as an act of prostitution began from time immemorial. Actually, Beauvoir is in favour of prostitution which provides women freedom in sexuality and it also secures women's identity but Beauvoir refuses prostitution in domestic level. Household prostitution indeed gives no payment to woman; it is totally a free service to the husband and woman has to take responsibility of other members of her family.

Lessing in this way attempts to subvert the traditional norms of marriage established by males by presenting her intelligent and self-dependent protagonists: Anna, Molly, Ella and Julia. Lessing claims that it is the marriage that thoroughly snatches women's freedom and desire. In this sense, the novelist, Anna is totally against marriage which is evil to women. Thus, Lessing's powerful character Anna in her notebook

characterizes her heroine Ella, who said, “Well, I haven’t been out of London for months. Besides, this business of not having a man around doesn’t suit me.” “Who does it suit?” reported Julia. “But I don’t think any man is better than none” (177).

The aforementioned quote states that Julia and Ella, valiant free and modern women parodies man is a hard blow against patriarchy. In the past women were made puppet by the hands of men and women were ready to accept whatever rules are imposed upon them but these two heroines from Anna’s “Yellow Notebook” use up male partner for their pleasure. Ella compares man with business and shares her feeling with Julia that she needs at least a single man to fulfill her desire. Similarly, Julia’s view about a man is her day to day life doesn’t make any sense. In other words, she doesn’t emphasize on the relationship of any man. Both Julia and Ella like Anna and Molly are having pleasure in their free life who mere take male partners to fulfill their desire.

*The Golden Notebook* where Lessing by foregrounding two intelligent heroines decenters the hierarchy of marriage. Lessing argues marriage is a secondary thing. If there is no freedom, satisfaction in sexual act the relationship of marriage becomes subordinate. Lessing’s character Anna and Molly have already sacrificed their marriage and living independent lives doing job like male members of the society. They also take care of their children. Thus, Lessing suggests women to be free from the clutch of marriage and look for their individuality in free world.

As regards marriage, La Puberte Marro avers:

The only difference between who sell themselves in prostitution and those who sell themselves in marriage is in the price and the length of time the contract runs. For both sexual act is a service; the one is hired for life by one man; the other has several clients who pay her by the

piece. The one is protected by one male against all others; the other is defended by all against the exclusive tyranny of each. (qtd. in Beauvoir 569)

The very definition of marriage given by Marro makes crystal clear about woman's role as a sexual worker not only in house after marriage but also being prostitute independently. Hence, marriage is a long-lasting service of women without getting anything but women is paid in prostitution a bit that's what prostitution is better than marriage.

Marriage in one sense is a main obstacle which blocks the women's freedom but the fact is women still respect it. Women do not neglect, though they are tortured in marriage. But for men marriage is just a game where they always defeat women. Marriage for men is done just to exploit women both physically and psychologically while exploring the character of Julia who delineates her friend's story: "His marriage must be no marriage at all, if he could stay with her, night after night going home at dawn, for a clean shirt" (187). Here Julia criticizes males' behaviour on marriage that just fulfills their physical desire. Indeed Julia talks about men's mechanical relationship in marriage. Julia's word 'clean shirt' is a symbol that indicates man's objective relationship in marriage. That is to say, women are taken as an object that can be changed time to time but most of the women still take marriage as their fate.

Lessing's purpose through *The Golden Notebook* is to empower women, to rationalize women to motivate women and to choose their self path in their life. This is the reason Lessing presents two educated and valiant women protagonists: Anna and Molly and their carbon copy Julia and Ella through Anna's notebooks. Novelist makes her characters free to develop their career equal to males. Existentialism states

that human beings are free to choose their way of living. This idea is applicable to both man and woman but patriarchal culture women are not allowed to be free.

Lessing interconnects between freedom and sexuality. She blurs the demarcation line between women's sexuality and men's sexuality. When women have sex with other men except their husbands it becomes great issue that those women are called as whore, prostitutes, characterless and the like but if men can keep sexual relation with other women, no one raises voice against it; in other words, those men are regarded as brave, handsome and so on. To woman to talk about sex is very hard but for men it is just like sipping tea, drinking water. Thus, sex is still taken as great issue in male dominated society to women. In this regards, Ella alias Anna's view seems quite relevant:

Sex. The difficulty of writing about sex, for women, is that sex is best when not thought about, not analyzed. Women deliberately choose not to think about technical sex. They get irritable when men talk technically, it's out of self-preservation: they want to preserve the spontaneous emotion that is essential for their satisfaction (199).

The quote says that though Ella is a free woman a writer, have sex with men yet she feels difficulty while expressing about sex in her book. She criticizes men that who asserts on technical sexual relation but women need sex mixed with emotion and love. So, even for free woman like Anna, Ella, and Molly to talk and have sex freely is very hard. Lessing asserts that freedom, love, sex, entertainment are the essential factor in life.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines sexuality that "the feelings and activities connected with a person's sensual desires: male/ female sexuality" (Hornby 1392). This definition encompasses both genders who has desire of sex but in the

society only men's sensual desires are valorized while women's desire are considered as taboo, vulgar, sickness, mental and many other adjectives by the men.

As freedom is necessary to both genders so love, sex, and other activities also are important. Actually the three elements: freedom, love and sex are interconnected into one another. Lessing's main purpose is to provide complete freedom to the women through her protagonists and to make women equally active and wise in the development of society. Lessing presents her protagonist Anna or Ella not only a popular writer but also a political activist who has inclination towards communism led by Russia. During the time when she has written this fiction women are rarely seen in the field of politics but Lessing deconstructs this trend and foregrounds her character into the main stream of politics.

On behalf of love Ella states, "No, I can't. And I don't believe it. No woman in the world wants to live without love" (206). This expresses that love is compulsion to conduct life. Love is a remote control which runs the vehicle of life. Love is also a choice of human being which is hard to give up. Loveless person seeks freedom of death thus love plays very important role in our society. When a person gets freedom then love leads them to quench their sensual passion but for women it is everything that contains each and every relationship happening among human beings.

Simon de Beauvoir in her book *The Second Sex* opines:

Genuine love ought to be founded on the mutual recognition of two liberties; the lovers would then experience themselves both as self and as other: neither would give up transcendence, neither would mutilated; together they would manifest values and aims in the world. For the one and the other, love would be revelation of self by the gift of self and enrichment of the world (Beauvoir 677).

Here Beauvoir explicitly reveals about love which is mutual understanding between man and woman. She asserts equal participation in love but in society men regard love just to fulfill their physical intentions. As per Beauvoir love is essential for mankind but it is understood differently between male and female. Love should be joined with emotion but men just have it for passing the time. It is true love leads two male and female towards sexual act but if both are faithful in their love.

Ella, the character of Anna explains her own characters' love story from her fiction: "That night in bed, making love to him was mechanical thing; she went through the motions of response. It was a different experience from the other nights. It seemed he did not know it; and they lay afterwards as usual close in each other's arms. She was chilled and full of dismay." (188)

Through the above quote Ella explains the sexual intercourse where there is lack of love. The man just loves his woman to fulfill his sexual thirst but woman takes him as everything. But in bed she feels that he is just exploiting her body and there is no symptom of love in the sex which disappoints her deeply.

Lessing aims to provide genuine pleasure through love and sex but women are just loved to take their flesh. Women lose their body to get love from men whereas men give their body to achieve sex. *The Golden Notebook* though it interprets many sexual activities between man and woman but the deep meaning behind it is female is sexually dominated and exploited. Lessing analyzes sex and love from different angles. She differentiates different attitude in the sexual act from both man and woman. In other words, Lessing observes subjective relationship of women whereas objective of men while having and falling into love and sex.

And Lessing's protagonists: Anna and Molly are both conscious to this fact of love and sex; thus, they have already divorced their husband and choose the free path

in which they are using men to fulfill their pleasure that is quite contrary than the women's attitude. Lessing's real purpose is to empower woman in terms of physical and psychological like so called men in the society that's why she brings the concept of existential feminism. In order to fulfill this project she creates Anna and Molly and who's fictional representatives Ella and Julia who are just the representation to fulfill Lessing's campaign for the empowerment of women all over the Europe.

Anna and Molly are conscious and capable in their life that are facing many obstacles though they are overcoming them one by one but the minor characters in *The Golden Notebook* are not given more wisdom who represent the common women's pitiable condition in choosing their husband, having sex with men, enjoying in marriage, etc. Anna visits her psychiatric partner, Mrs. Marks whenever she has doubt about her mental health. While counseling Anna Mrs. Marks recalls: Once I treated a woman for three years for frigidity. She was feeling with a man she loved. But she never in all those three years had an orgasm. On the day they married she had an orgasm for the first time (218).

Through this quote Lessing reflects classical view of general women in which they emphasize to institutionalize marriage. Lessing's female protagonists: Anna and Molly have already broken up their relationship of marriage and living freely but other minor character Mrs. Marks who is doctor by profession urges Anna to get married by exemplifying her ex-patient. That is to say, the quote exposes the women are still preserving patriarchal norms and values by forgetting their freedom, intellectuality, identity. Women still want to be dependent on men to accomplish their desire.

Lessing by providing freedom to her protagonists tries to observe and analyze women's conditions in their free life. Some women who are capable to struggle come

out of their familial bond and hold separate path as Anna and Molly are doing same. Even in their freedom they are not totally free because society has the same people's attitude towards women are the same. Anna and Molly are not happily utilizing their freedom. In this context, Anna states, "I would go to sleep in his arms, dissolved and happy and wake up in the morning hating and resenting him" (ibid: 218). The very statement shows that having sex in her free life she is still sad and a kind of anxiety, fear is lurking inside her mind. The path which she has chosen by breaking the traditional boundary to live freely yet there is fear of existence. In other words, she is not completely free in her freedom.

Specifically, there is no any authentic natural law and order to differentiate either male or female but the very system governed by one gender that is male envies towards the emancipation of women. Indeed Anna and Molly are independent yet they are getting lots of hindrances to use their freedom. They are free, have sex with their chosen partner but still something are missing in their freedom that makes them quite bit sad. The important thing is Anna and Molly's freedom is great worthwhile than those who are still in the border of familial and marriage bond. These very women who are always manipulated by their husbands are sadder, stressful, scared than the woman like Anna and Molly. Lessing's minor character Marion, second wife of Richard shares her feeling with Anna: "How lucky- you- are, Anna. I do- think- you- are so lucky to live, to live as you- like. Such a pretty room. And you- you – you are free. Do as you like" (250). This extract where Marion regrets being a dependent woman with Richard, her husband who always regards her as a domestic animal; comparatively Anna's life is far better and happier than Marion and the irony is Anna is also not truly cheerful despite the fact that she has chosen freedom.

Here the whole gender based society is guilty that snatches women's freedom. The novelist in this way reflects two sorts of women: on who have left their husbands and living their lives independently and the others are still sticking in the clutch of men. But the very reality both has some types of obstacles in the dint of male centrism. Hence, Beauvoir by reading women's history from the stating phase avers:

In a patriarchal society Beauvoir observes men are considered essential subjects (independent selves with free will) while women are considered contingent beings (dependent beings controlled by circumstances). Men can act upon the world, change it, give it meaning, while women have meaning only in relation to men. (Tyson 96)

Beauvoir here portrays true picture of the society; its foundation is stood on men's norms and values as a consequence men are regarded as essential subject having free from each and every atmosphere while women existence is fluid, instable liquid which is connected by various situations and conditions. Thus, women even in their single and free life are not openly free rather freedom is mixed with fear.

Lessing not only presents the free women like Anna and Molly but also expose their fear in their free life. To live freely without any obstructions in life for women is very hard. Lessing's two female protagonists face such hindrance given to them by the so called superior beings male that's why they are not cent percent free though they have already chosen their independent way. They have some kind of angst in their existence and that angst is generated by gender based society.

Anna who seems very lucky, free in the eyes of society and the women who are still in the domestic boundary of their husband want to get such life but Anna has own problem that she shares to Marion when Marion respects her free life: You are

what I want to be- you're free, and you have lovers and you do as you like. "I'm not free" said Anna; heard the dryness in her tone and understood she must banish it. She said, "Marion, I'd like to be married. I don't like living like this." (252)

The dialogue between Anna, the protagonist and Marion, the minor character informs that no woman is happy and purely free. Being a wife of Richard, Marion has own kind of problem and fear; Marion is too sad and fearful than Anna while talking about Anna, a divorced woman as well as a writer who is living independently for many years has still complains against patriarchy. The crux of this essay lies here that Anna as well as her friend Molly having enjoy both physically and psychologically yet they have phobia with male. In other words, their real identity is at stake and they are not actually free women being free from their domestic walls.

Hence, Doris Lessing tries to focus on this essence of women's freedom; some women by revolting patriarchy choose their independent path but they are still being chased by the customs of male dominated society. For other general women, Anna and Molly are the epitome of freedom but internally they are not getting what they have wished before so that, sometimes in grief mood they recall their familial life because there is no more difference between the life with their husbands and without their husbands; in both types of life they are losing their true female identity. And Anna and Molly are struggling to achieve their original female identity and subjectivity by applying their feminine qualities against masculinity.

Anna that's why even in her free life cannot get pure freedom and she dreams for her past life. There are some sorts of frustrations in her free life. Anna unravels her true experience: "But I hate going to bed. Once it was the happiest time of my life when we were first married. That's why I envy you. No mans ever going to want me again. That's all finished." (252) Here the protagonist, Anna's story shared with

Marion reflects her hatred towards the bad culture of men. The first sentence 'I hate going to bed' reflects her anger to the nature of males who only try women as their sexual toys. Anna divorced her husband and chose independent life and now living this life yet she is being tortured by the clutch of patriarchy. The same man the next day does not want to fulfill her sensual desire that also proves that women are still made an object in the hand of subject that is male. Through this long fiction Lessing is trying to empower women and generate women who are as capable as men but sometimes her protagonists are failed to fulfill their aim. Her protagonists are suffering from alienation in their own free life and this angst is caused by gender biased society.

In this context, Simon de Beauvoir avers:

Women are enticed by two modes of alienation. Evidently to play at being a man will be for her a source of frustration but to play at being a woman is also delusion; to be a woman would mean to be the object, the other and the other nevertheless remains subject in the midst of her resignation. The true problem for women is to reject their flights from reality and seek self-fulfillment in transcendence. (qtd. in Butler 72)

The aforementioned quote by Beauvoir reflects women's obligation that makes them to feel alienation, frustration. Beauvoir suggests women to seek the means of self-fulfillment in transcendence in order to release from this illusion and imprisonment.

While borrowing Beauvoirian concept Lessing's female protagonists Anna and Molly being separated from their husbands they are easily taking care of their offspring. They are also in search of self-fulfillment but it is very hard to do this therefore in the beginning they are taking help of men to accomplish their bodily desires.

*The Golden Notebook* in which Lessing, the novelist by presenting courageous women characters want to smash the inequality of gender sex. Both male and female who are same except some biological differences but women are always treated as other that is why Beauvoir tells, "One is not born, but rather becomes woman" (D' Souza 25) means it's a society and the civilization of man which names woman. The protagonist, Anna who is independent she is representing to make other woman as capable and independent as her. She has not the inborn quality to be a writer, a divorced woman, and independent woman but it is her own choice and in her choice sometimes she gets pleasure whereas sometimes pain as well.

Anna shares her feelings as given below:

The fight with my various forms of dissatisfaction tires me; but I know this is not a personal fight. When I talk about it with other woman, they tell me they have to fight all kinds of guilt; they recognize as irrational, usually to do with working or wanting time for themselves; and the guilt is a habit of the nerves from the past. (324)

In this sense, Anna leads the road and she wishes other women to follow her. She clearly reveals that 'this is not a personal fight' rather she is just a representative: Anna in fact a mouth piece of Lessing draws women's attention to fight for this biasness; they can be men if they forsake their traditional rules and norms established by so called superior males. Just like Lessing, who is also a famous writer in the society so her heroine Anna who is too as popular as Lessing in the fiction. Anna's last line from this quote- 'and the guilt is a habit of the nerves from the past' signals the history of civilization as a consequence women are treated as 'inessential', 'inferior', 'object' and the like.

Anna's perspective upon women can be justified from the notion of Simon de Beauvoir who remarks: "... there is no unchangeable feminine essence. There is no essential feminine character which is predetermined, but a woman is the product of a civilization" (D' Souza 25). Here, Beauvoir too blames the whole civilization which is patriarchal; from the time of civilization women have been made 'othering' by the men. According to Beauvoir there is no feminine essence in woman that makes woman. It is the man, who names woman, who makes rules and regulation to woman- the men judge women from their own perspective which is unfair to women.

Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* where she has foregrounded the voice of women through the female protagonists, Anna and Molly. Lessing blurs the demarcation between man and woman in terms of existence. In the prior fictions, the writers mostly pointed out about the existence of the men bypassing the women. Indeed existentially both male and female are free to choose their path of life but the man becomes obstacles on the way of woman. Men show the path to women but women are themselves as capable as men to conduct their life. That is to say Lessing's two heroines, Anna and Molly are the epitome of women who not only desert their husband but also lead their life successfully, nevertheless, the male dominated society always endeavours to avert their smoothly running life. Being females who are both single but they are challenging the masculine friends. As already mentioned in this dissertation they are using men to execute their thrust that is mainly physical rather than being used by men like classical women.

Lessing's Anna and Molly are given free life in this novel who is protesting domestic and familial life of women; who teach other women how to spend life without men by doing what sorts of activities. Lessing attempts to present the difference between free women like Anna and Molly and domestic confined women

like Marion. Marion, wife of Richard who is badly treated by her husband that can be understood through the following extract:

I thought, my God, for that creature I've ruined my life. I remember the moment exactly I was sitting at the breakfast table, wearing a sort of negligee thing I'd bought because he likes me in that sort of thing—you know trills and flowers, or well, he used to like me in them. I've always hated them. And I thought, for years and years I've been wearing clothes I hated, just to please this creature. (351)

The above quote of Marion sounds absolutely ridiculous and astonishing. Women are sent to husband's house from their parent to secure their life. But the irony is women are treated like purchased 'objects' in husband's house. Marion shares her bitter reality about her husband whom she says 'creature'; she has to act and dance by wearing filmy dress to please her husband. Women are just behaved as if they are puppet in the hands of men. Women have to sacrifice their happiness, desire to fulfill their husband's order. It is too embarrassing even to think on this matter

By birth both man and woman are free but after that a man gets freedom and he is taught to train woman. Marion's pathetic story is a story of millions of women who are living the life of hell in their house. To those women Lessing aims to provide emancipation. And Lessing's main priority is to break the marriage institution that has been exploiting women for long time. The decision and the right should provide to women to get married. When women are free from this confinement they can develop their personality.

Lessing's heroines are enjoying their freedom; who are independent. They have chosen their own path to live in this earth. Both Anna and Molly have been facing various obstacles in their lives. Being independent from husband women gets a

kind of relief in their life but they are not fully free even in their free life. There is chaos, fear, terror in their freedom and that is happened due to the gender bias established from long time.

Though women are free and living without familial bondage but they need help of men for different purposes to celebrate their freedom. At this time women are again victimized by men. To have sex is natural phenomena; it is the demand of body but for this women should depend on man. They alone cannot get this sexual pleasure. Regarding this fact Butler states: “The body is not a static phenomenon, but a mode of intentionality, a directional force and mode of desire” (Butler 69). Butler is true in a sense that body demands body but keeping whole biological relationship men take women body as an ‘object’ of pleasure but women take it seriously, they cannot be rude and selfish like men in sexual relationship.

In other words, for men sex and love are separate things whereas for women they are linked with each other therefore because of this thinking women are obliged to be exploited by men though they are living independently. In this context, Anna’s view seems quite appropriate who is regretting due to her compulsion: “Anna, frightened and sick, nevertheless grinned at herself, smiled at the knowledge that she, the independent woman was independent and immune to the ugliness of perverse sex, violent sex, just so long as she was loved by a man” (358).

In this very extract Anna’s weakness has been reflected; in order to accomplish her sexual passion she needs a man. Anna hates sex which is natural phenomena of human beings but if it is committed in excessive way, it will bring terrible impact. Here, this extract tells about Anna’s dependency upon a man just to quench her sexual hunger. It is true she is not dependent for other purposes with man but to have sexual act she has to invite a man as a consequence man shows his ego

and tries to snatch feminine identity. By giving different names like 'violent sex', 'perverse sex' she is going to reveal man's animal like characteristics. Woman has to loose and hide their identity while copulating. In other words, sex is not only sex for woman but man just takes advantages from it by thinking it as a game of fun.

Sex is, indeed, joined with freedom that's why to enjoy sexual act is to enjoy freedom. Hence, Anna and her friend Molly in their life are giving mere priority to sex in their free life. This dissertation is attempting to find out anxiety of having sexual act in free life of women. Anna as well as Molly is modern women who have already divorced their husbands but still their identity is somehow captured by men. Though they are modern women standing on their own feet but they need man, too, in order to fulfill their desire.

That is to say, Anna is feeling an anxiety or angst in her life because of the male behaviour done towards women. Here Simon de Beauvoir teaches something more to modern women. Beauvoir endeavours to take man's position 'being free', she avers:

The emancipated woman, on the contrary, wants to be active, a taker, and refers the passivity man means to impose on her. The modern woman accepts masculine values: she prides herself on thinking, taking action, working, creating, on the same terms as man; instead of seeking to disparage them, she declares herself their equal. (Beauvoir 727)

Beauvoirian notion from this extract attempts woman to provide equal position to woman. She wants to present women as modern and equal as men. Here, Beauvoir motivates women to be competitor of man. She does not advise to go against man rather to struggle to grab man's status. And like Beauvoir Lessing too wants same, she has presented such female protagonists like Anna and Molly so as to instruct other

women of the society. It is fact that in the road of freedom human beings faces many obstacles which is applicable to both man and woman as a consequence anxiety is natural to some extent in the life of Molly and Anna.

*The Golden Notebook* by Lessing looks a saga of feminism but it talks about female rights in different way by breaking traditional strategy of past feminist works. The major characters Anna and Molly shed the light basically on the freedom and physical sexuality. Both Molly and Anna is the representative of whole women who are living under the shadow of patriarchy. 'Anna' by discarding her husband is successfully rearing her child. Anna is a writer whose *The Frontiers of War* has got more popularity. Her characters Ella who is the replicate of Anna reflects true situations of women. Ella, who is also a writer like Anna shares her feelings basing on the life of her character: "Married men, temporarily wifeless, trying to have an affair with her- etc, ten years ago she would not have even noticed or remarked on it. All this was taken by her as a part of the husbands and chances of being a 'free woman' (399).

Through this extract where Ella alias Anna expresses her 'angst' or 'anxiety' experiencing on account of free woman. In this extract too she has pointed out masculine trend which is always in search of exploiting woman. According to Ella, to spend the free life being a single woman is not so easy. Each and every time the so called men are trying to take advantage from women. Yet human beings are condemned to choose it. Women have to go through various anxieties in their independent life in comparison with men. And the crucial matter is men are the perpetrators who give angst to women in patriarchal society.

Ella or Anna as well as Molly are toiling to protect their identity being free and independent women in the male dominated society. By forgetting anxiety,

frustration they are challenging the gender biased society. In fact, Lessing by providing main character to Anna attempts to expose women's struggle in this society where women are being degraded for long time. Men think that women cannot do anything without the help of men but Lessing's protagonist Anna's status is more worthy than man because of her hard labour.

*The Golden Notebook* where the central character Anna along with her friend Molly by divorcing their husbands is living free and independent life. This novel mostly presents Anna and Molly's free life in which they enjoy their valuable life by keeping sexual relationship with different men. In the past, men used to prey different women to accomplish their physical thirst but Lessing here shows Anna and Molly are doing such masculine roles in order to strike men.

Anna who is a writer takes satisfaction as well as earns money by writing four kinds of notebook: The Yellow, The Black, The Blue, The Red notebook in which she keeps records of her emotional, political, day-to-day events, fictional characters' account etc. In addition to it she ultimately prepares her Golden Notebook which incorporates all the facts and fiction of her life.

Despite the 'angst' that appears on the road of freedom woman cannot give up such life. Along with anxiety, frustration they are having a kind of satisfaction which is impossible to achieve with the patriarchal boundary. Women in this struggle of liberation with men sometimes lose the battle and sometimes gain but they do not succumb in front of men. In this context Simon de Beauvoir avers: "With the vision of personal and political freedom as an ideal, de Beauvoir traces how grandiosity leads to attempts to control or conquer, and self-denial results in submission and giving over one's freedom" (qtd. in Asher 90).

As Beauvoir writes 'self-denial' that refers to anxiety in the path of emancipation. It is true to some extent that few women when they feel frustration and angst while searching and enjoying freedom, they surrender themselves and reveal their submissiveness. They cannot stand straight on the position as a result man easily gets chance to dominate woman. But the novelist, Lessing does not advise women to show their weakness in front of men. That is to say, here in this novel protagonist Anna after getting lots of hardship, stress, plights from her male partners but she never gets married again. In other words Anna never decides to remarry with any male partners. She better wishes enjoying her free life despite various tense and hazards.

It is very hard to enjoy free life having sex and doing other personal activities in the chaos of anxieties therefore all women cannot continue their freedom rather take shelter again and be servant of men. In the novel, Ella's fictional character regrets for being docile and submissive creature in the hands of men: "She suffers sex desire in a vacuum. She is acutely humiliated thinking that, this means she is dependent on men for 'having sex' for 'being served' 'for being satisfied' she uses this kind of savage phrase to humiliate herself" (401).

Ella's character in this extract regrets heavily what she has done with men. She is getting many anxieties after keeping relationship with men. Some women who completely depend on men in order to fulfill their sexual desire but man is more sexual than woman. That is to say, the man needs sex more than woman as a result man should depend more on woman in order to complete their sexual intention. Some women only think that they need men to fulfill their passion but indeed sexual hunger is found more in men than woman.

In *The Golden Notebook* Anna, the heroine of this novel never died for fulfilling her sexual will rather when situation takes places she enjoys it. If women give more priority to sex than their career in patriarchal society these women will not establish them as equal as men. Anna, the protagonist is able to stand on her position by having sexual relationship with different men but no man can control and try to dominate her.

The novelist, Lessing thus gives example of different sorts of women. Lessing's Anna is happy in her single life by taking care of her daughter in spite of the angst she is facing. On the other side there are other women who scare with anxiety and who also want to get freedom but finally they chase moan from this battle. Lessing endeavours to empower such coward woman by giving the example of Anna and her friend Molly.

Anna alias Ella while empowering her characters in her fiction states: "But now, when he falls in love with her again, she rejects him and in bitter contempt what she is now is not what she 'really' is. He has rejected her 'real' self. He has betrayed a real love and loves a counterfeit. When she rejects him she is preserving her real self whom he has rejected and betrayed." (405-06)

The aforementioned textual evidence vividly portrays man and woman's relationship in love. By nature both are same but for the long time women have been subjugated and othered. In love woman gives everything but they are rejected by men. Women contribute their whole happiness for the sake of men but they are made 'other'. Women are known by men's identity because women's identity loses when they engage in relationship. That is to say, Anna strongly suggests women to reject man and they can protect their real identity. In a relationship with a man woman cannot defend their 'self', 'identity' but when they are free and independent they do

not have to lose their subjectivity. According to Anna, if man rejects woman, woman too will reject man. If the identity of woman is in stake then woman must step forward to prevent their real self.

To be free in this world means not only separate from male's domination but to save own 'identity', 'self', 'subject', 'name', etc. Up to now woman is taken as 'object' but when women deceive men they become 'subject' and they create their own existence. In the earth anyone is free and independent to run his/her life so no man has right to dominate woman. That's why Beauvoir time and again expresses, "one is not born, rather becomes a woman" (D' Souza 25) hence it is men who define women for their vested interest.

The well-known fact is existence precedes essence; there is no such essence which determines the quality of female and male. It is purely male ideology who creates different values and norms to woman. Men are the rule maker of women to carry out their service. No woman is born with certain quality and such essence. It is the man's own discourse that imposes many strict agendas for women.

Women try hard to please men by sacrificing their wishes, demands, rights and the like, nevertheless, men want more. And ultimately, women are ready to desert men forever and start living independent life by hook or crook. How much women do for the pleasure of men can be understood through this extract borrowed from "The Women Destroyed", an essay written by Fallaize:

Monique's tactic, however, is not allowed to succeed, and in a reversal of the happy end of the genre, she is left alone at the end of the story without her husband. As she writes her diary she begins to see that she has spent years constructing a mythology of the perfect couple, the

perfect wife and mother, the perfect husband and has refused all other perceptions. (56)

The pathetic story of Monique reminds all the women about men's real nature who has done many contributions to be a perfect woman and wife but at last what she gets is nothing, and she is left alone. The difference between Monique and Anna is Anna gets such consciousness of future in the beginning that's why she gets divorce from her husband and starts career in writing books and enjoys physical and psychological life without anyone's order. But in case of Monique who endures every injustices thinking as if it's her own fate and posits her husband as a supreme being but she never gets satisfaction. She takes care of her children, husband and whole family but her situation is still getting worse day-by-day as a result she better leaves her house and starts enjoying single life with sheer happiness at last.

That is to say, *The Golden Notebook*, which describes women's condition in patriarchal world; the members of patriarchy are always hindrance in the road of freedom. One being has no such power and right to resist and control another being. *The Golden Notebook* foregrounds women's existence and empowers women to stand firm in their place. The another Lessing who begets her valiant protagonist Anna in order to spread such news that women are not inferior, docile, submissive, object, other and the like. Lessing's Anna by bearing various hurdles of life challenges masculine traits and always tries to be competitor of man.

Each and every rules and norms prepared by patriarchal network is just to control woman and to denigrate woman. Actually those ideologies do not function anymore when women become fully emancipated and self-reliant on their own. Women are capable to construct their own existence without any man's assistance. Anna after having lots of relationship in her life being an independent woman whose

internal heart is understood as follows: “Anna switched off! Something inside her went dead, or moved apart from what was happening. She became a shell. She stood there, looking at words like love, friendship, duty, responsibility and know them to be lies.” (450)

This extract exemplifies Anna’s absurd feelings towards the human existence. She blames all the man-made relationships, duty, and responsibility. Every discourse has become worthless and meaningless for Anna. A sort of deep hatred generates in her mind but the core fact behind her expressions concern with the so called subject of society i.e. men. On the road of emancipation anyone either male or female feels obstacles, sad, upset but women get torture, troubles though they are free because men act as if they are the leader of another being that is woman. Thus, in this sense woman feels double anxiety; one by existence which is beyond and other is by man who is their equal but regard themselves as superior being created by God. Anna eventually thinks that everything is lie that is her real angst but which is created out of man’s pride.

Anna’s inner expression makes woman conscious in keeping relationship with men. Anna, even being free and independent is feeling sad; thus, a question here arises about those domestic women who are locked up inside the household perimeter or periphery.

Anna loves and keeps sexual relationships with many men after divorce with her husband, yet she cannot get pure and true love of men as a result she strongly hates man; Anna further opines: “I was lying in bed examining the phrase ‘in love’ as if it were the name of disease I could choose not to have” (488). Anna keeps sexual bond to have love. Unlike her male partner she does not wish such sexual relation in which no love and emotion exists. But all males like her husband play same role as a

consequence she calls 'love' as a 'disease' and Anna is a sick woman of this disease. This disease is slowly affecting her both mentally and physically.

Women whether they are out of household boundary or inside household circle; they have been affected by the selfish nature of men. It is very hard to go completely free in the existence where both gender are present. In this way, there is risk to woman inside as well as outside of their house. In other words, patriarchal society wants to present women as inferior and object at any rate. Her Judith Butler's notion seems appropriate: "In the effort to naturalize and universalize the institution of motherhood is being denied; in effect, motherhood is actually being promoted as the only option, i.e. as a compulsory social institution" (662).

As Butler writes that in the name of motherhood men are establishing womenhood. Men want to institutionalize socially to motherhood. Thus, there is no way out to woman to achieve freedom like men. The ways are different in the course of time but women are being suppressed by man; however, in the novel, *The Golden Notebook* Anna is looking for her identity which is hard even in her free life due to such complex norms and values established by patriarchal civilization. Lessing's heroine Anna though she meets many tragedies in life but never kneels down in front of man. Lessing's strategy through this masterpiece *The Golden Notebook* is just to make women capable, equal, and happy, etc like man.

Lessing's heroine Anna's last male partner, Saul Green who is American by nation also behaves same like her previous partners. Anna is thinking to make him long-lasting partner but her dream is shattered when Saul also shows his so called masculine elements that is seen through Anna's conversation with Green: "You men, when a woman began to care about you or found you out, you simply moved onto the next" (503). This extract picturizes loving and hating nature of men and woman. In

one sense Anna's statement reflects woman's weakness and man's selfishness. It is natural both woman and man need sexual pleasure but only woman regards sex is closed to love. If it is taken positively, woman is moral and conscience is not to deceive any man but in terms of man who just thinks sex as a game of body. To men, no love, attachment, emotion, relates with love. Sex is just an entertainment between man and woman for male gender but for female it is more than this. In this way, Anna's quotation encompasses male's inner nature in love and sex.

Saul Green, one of the common characters of the novel who represents a typical male member of patriarchal society replies to Anna, "For Christ sake's you must understand sex isn't important to me, it just isn't important. I said: You mean sex is important but who you have it with isn't" (507). This evidence of Green is enough to know male's core nature towards sex with woman. Green clearly mentions here that sex for him does not affect whomsoever he has. So, only female tries to decorate sex with love but male cannot give any priority to sex. Anna seems tired and upset due to having sex with several male partners; however, she cannot find anyone who really copulate her for love. That is to say, she heavily despises love and the duty and responsibility of life attached with male.

Anna's war with getting freedom as well as identity does not end rather she has the fire inside her heart and this fire is rapidly burning. Anna is not against male but the norms made male which she likes to change from its root. Anna does not wish to compromise with Saul Green just for having sex rather she separates from him like her husband whom she has divorced earlier. Due to the view of Saul Green no man can be ready to take woman's responsibility rather just wants woman to get pleasure. Each human being is necessary to take their duty and to seek their freedom then there is possibility to create harmonious society. To justify this view Asher derives ideas

from both Sartre and Beauvoir: The only way out for de Beauvoir as for Sartre, in this early period of their thinking, is through a radical conversion in which one decides to take responsibility for one's own freedom and assumes the freedom of all others (Asher 93).

Here, Beauvoir and Sartre's idea sounds hypothetical but it helps women to decrease their anxiety to some extent. But as per Sartre and Beauvoir radical conversion between man and woman is essential to utilize one's own freedom and responsibility being free from each other. Their vision is to equalize both beings to enjoy free existence in life.

Lessing's protagonist Anna is really a bold woman who has got both types of experience being lonely in her life. Formerly she was with her husband who started to inferiorize Anna as a result she got divorced and she starts living independently by taking care of her only daughter. After divorce she never surrenders any male for any sorts of assistance rather she is wrong male for fulfilling her sexual gratification while engaging with various male partners. In her free life she collects plenty of experiences and her last male partner named Saul Green who at first acts as if he would really care her but in the course of time he also exposes his masculine traits that is really unbearable to Anna.

Anna, a writer by profession who is taking royalty from her famous novel, *The Frontiers of War* ultimately decides to write her fifth and last book that is "The Golden Notebook." She is really courageous because she has done more than a common man does in his life. Her last male partner who provides her some tension that makes her anxious and conscious one again towards othering and exploiting nature of man that is seen through Anna's monologue: "He stood looking at me, full of hate, and I felt the muscles of my stomach, tighten, and the cloud of anxiety settle

down like a dark fog” (509). Anna’s heart-rending expressing above reveals man’s extremity over accomplishing his desire. The American so called lover of Anna after having physically time and again is not ready to settle down rather he directly denies Anna’s presence in his life which signals that he is looking for new person to complete his vested sexual interest. The image ‘a dark fog’ is covering the light of the moon alias Anna. Mainly in the autumn season the dark fog appears in the sky but the spring season avoids the fogs and makes the sky as clear as the crystal.

The anxiety and frustration of Anna given by Green is actually empowering her to face the brutality and cruelty of men. Now, she has got a lesson from the patriarchy to step forward in her life. She is not losing the battle rather she is going to change her strategy to give hard blow on the face of man. Her identity is still at stake but her struggle is going on. Hence, for the justification of Anna’s quote Green’s view on women is found related that is based on Beauvoir: From this “otherness” of woman, de Beauvoir draws certain conclusions concerning female sexuality essentially, she argues that women’s status as the “other” means she is not a free being but, rather, a sexually passive “prey” limited to immanent corporeal being (102-03).

Naturally, every individual is free to do his/her work, duty. No one states that s/he is great, valuable, and significant in this existence; nevertheless men endeavour to impose their superiority over women that are truly ludicrous. As Beauvoir writes that woman is regarded as ‘other being’ then later on women are being ‘prey’ in the hand of men. In this novel, *The Golden Notebook*, too Anna is treated as ‘other’ and is being tried to make ‘prey’ by each and every male being. That is to say, Lessing has trained Anna, the heroine of modern society to present her feminine role in unique manner, thus Anna remarks, “And I’ve come to the conclusion, I’ve always been a

hypocrite, and in fact I enjoy being boss and being flattered” (526). This statement teaches now idea to all women to live freely by enjoying their life without any man’s aid. Anna lastly possesses male quality as “hypocrite”, “flatterer” to confront fearlessly in male dominated society. Being a modern woman she has decided to change her qualities to love like a complete and emancipated human being. And woman can take such action as Anna is taking when one’s existence is threatened by other being i.e. male.

Anna who is experiencing the numerous events in her free life and is mentioning each and every in her notebooks: yellow, blue, black, and red. She is minutely observing each and every event and uniquely presents in her autobiographical books. She also gained experience by her friend Molly’s life including many women who she is dealing in her life. Though her each article is readable and praiseworthy which she publishes sometimes in some magazines, newspapers. She gets various comments, criticisms by different male and female reader; mostly male and she points out that the male readers often criticizes her in dominating manner. It means a sense of looking women writer from the lens of othering, inferior, and so on so forth. In this context Green’s notion incorporates Anna’s authorship: “Women writers may “speak directly to the senses” they may “present experience still warm” of “be attentive to the hidden substance of things”, but they are marked by a fundamental weakness” (Ibid 100).

Thus, well-known fact through Green’s idea is women writers are considered as “essentially weakness”; it is purely man made discourse to suppress women writers’ intellectuality and skill. But the reality is woman is not less intelligent in terms of any profession but the very system is wrong prepared by so- called male beings.

Lessing in *The Golden Notebook* eventually succeeds to do justice the woman by characterizing Anna as bold as man that is proved in the following textual evidence: Nevertheless, although she is in despair that she is as “unfree” as ever, she announces to both men that she has now become thoroughly emancipated, she has at last achieved the ideal of full sexual and emotional pleasure with two men at once (552).

Wow! Sounds great Anna rejoices at last; she does not feel any regret though she has not acquired her full identity but she utterly fulfills her passion by using superior males. She gives shelter to men to quench her sexual thirst. Even though sometimes she does become anxious but she has completely enjoyed her life. She never conducts her life under the control of male rather she utilizes male to accomplish her mental and physical desire.

It is, indeed, art of Lessing to end her novel in forceful manner. Lessing does justice to the existence of human where not only man but also woman can readily chooses her life and passes her life without opposite sex’s help. Lessing smashes the rules of previous women and men writers; norms that often used to present women repenting at the end but in *The Golden Notebook* Anna is laughing, celebrating and happily sharing her life experiences being an ever free, independent woman.

### Chapter III

#### Identity and Anxiety versus Freedom and Romance

Lessing, by foregrounding Anna who is mouthpiece of Lessing, avoids the feeling of sordidness, pathetic, upsetting and internalizing her mission that is emancipation and its full-fledged utilization.

Lessing's protagonist Anna demonstrates her revolting nature when her husband attempts to make her 'other'; before dominating and being a domestic slave she selects the path of freedom that results divorce with her husband. Anna never has to spread her hands for the sake of living in her solitary life rather she is a capable and professional author who is survived by the royalty of her famous novel, *The Frontiers of War* instructs women to be self-reliant. As Anna and her bosom Molly, both divorced but challenge the old customs of society where women had to utterly rely on the income of 'men'.

To select a path is an existential right and essence of each sex and to have enjoyment in life is human desire. The sexual romance is and indefinable sheer pleasure when both sex male and female are free from any cultural and ritual rule. For years men are regarded themselves as messiah of women thus, they only enjoy sexual freedom by dominating woman. But in the novel, Anna is already aware with the male culture that is what she and her friend Molly desert their husbands as men used to in past society. Anna makes her 'prey' to man which means male are used as sexual slaves to please her. One after another Anna changes her sexual partner like men used to do in the classical time. Sometimes, though Anna thinks to settle down again with her male partner but she finds all men has same quality that is to exploit woman, to other woman, and to dominate woman by different means.

Lessing subverts the old norms of ending novel by presenting woman as sad and anxious at the end but in *The Golden Notebook* Anna, her protagonist is boastful of what she has done with so called superior males. Hence, Anna is able to defeat over male partners despite the fact that she sometimes feels existential angst and melancholic.

It is true, Anna is still searching her true female identity being a free woman in gender-based society but she is happy and satisfied in her life, where she has achieved both psychological and physical pleasure. To achieve pleasure in this existence is worthwhile to any human being; so Anna is very much glad in her private life.

Because of the burden, stress and delimitation imposed by patriarchal system, by breaking patriarchal social institution i.e. marriage, Anna chooses difficult life-style by single-handedly caring of her daughter; she gets succeeded in her life. The whole society runs after her to control her progression, nevertheless, she stands firm and erect, hence no masculine power downgrades her social status. Anna never kneels down ahead of any man rather she makes the men kneel down to her. Lessing succeeds to complete her mission through her valiant heroine Anna. By losing identity and realizing some anxiety in her freely chosen path Anna is overcoming society. Unlike traditional woman who remorsees for being alone in their life but Anna gets pleasure and feels a sheer happiness by suppressing men.

To sum up, freedom is essential in life; to utilize freedom each and every woman must stand on their own feet. When freedom combines with self-reliant life in which economy is not an obstacle, any woman can freely enjoy her life both physically and mentally.

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