

**Tribhuvan University**

**Search for Female Selfhood in Gita Mehta's: *A River Sutra***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree of Master in Arts**

**By**

**Laxmi Devi Gaudel**

**Central Department of English**

**Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur**

**December 2008**

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**Laxmi Devi Gaudel**

**2008**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Ms. Laxmi Devi Gaudel has completed her thesis entitled " Search for Female Selfhood in Gita Mehta's: *A River Sutra*" under my supervision. She carried out her research from June to December 2008. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Mr. Saroj Sharma Ghimire

Supervisor

Date: 23-12-2008

**Tribhuvan University**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

This thesis entitled "Search for Female Selfhood in Gita Mehta's: *A River Sutra*", by Laxmi Devi Gaudel submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

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Internal Examiner

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Head, Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

December, 2008

## Abstract

The novel issues out the theme of inequality, specially the differentiation between strong and weak, powerful and powerless as the central defining aspect of Indian society that helps in promoting the concept that the men should have greater authority than women and should rule over them. By doing this Mehta tries to condemn the patriarchal ideology as the hindrance in the path of freedom and equality. *A River Sutra* dramatizes the suffering of women not to sympathize them but to empower them with the knowledge that the condition is worse in comparison to male. The novelist tries to unfold the complex nature of women's status in Indian societies. To evoke the very reality of such duality is to make people aware of the situation so that they can do something for betterment of female's status in the society. To create such awareness, Mehta presents her female characters as submissive creature, as they are found in Indian Society. Though the female characters are taken from the different strata of society, experience of oppression and domination is common to all. The diverse background of the female characters is significant to show the very reality of female's experience in different social backgrounds.

Gita Mehta calls the reader to love womanness in women and to resist dehumanizing concepts of masculinity which is an essential part of Womanist struggle. Such struggle is the process of bringing changes in males' perception which is vital to bring women in the main stream.

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**Laxmi Devi Gaudel**

**December, 2008**

## Contents

	Page No.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	
<b>Abstracts</b>	
<b>I. Indian Sensibility in Gita Mehta's Novels</b>	<b>1-9</b>
<b>II. Third World Feminism</b>	<b>10-22</b>
Third World Feminism	15
Institutional Formation of a Woman: Indian Social Context	20
<b>III. Search for Female Selfhood in <i>A River Sutra</i></b>	<b>23-44</b>
Equality and Justice in the Institutions: Marriage, Religion, Education and Politics.	26
Search of Identity	31
Women's Image and Society	34
Politics of Resistance	39
<b>III. Conclusion</b>	<b>45-47</b>
<b>Works Cited</b>	