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A Study of Issues of Gender-Based Violence Between Pratima Mitchell and Ranjit Lal

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ABSTRACT

Both Pratima Mitchell and Ranjit Lal address the issue of gender-based violence in their writings, though their approaches and narrative styles differ significantly. Pratima Mitchell often focuses on the psychological and emotional dimensions of women's suffering, portraying how gender discrimination, domestic abuse, and societal expectations restrict women's freedom and identity. Her female characters struggle against the constraints of patriarchy, seeking individuality and dignity in a world dominated by male power. Mitchell's works expose the subtle and overt forms of violence women endure—ranging from emotional neglect to social exclusion—and highlight the resilience and courage required to challenge such injustices. Ranjit Lal, on the other hand, takes a more socially conscious and realistic approach to gender-based violence. His novels, such as *Faces in the Water*, depict the horrifying realities of female infanticide and the cultural conditioning that normalizes violence against women. Lal's writing not only criticizes patriarchal traditions but also calls for empathy and reform. While Mitchell emphasizes the inner turmoil and empowerment of women, Lal exposes the external societal mechanisms that perpetuate gender violence. Together, both authors create a powerful literary discourse that condemns gender inequality and advocates for compassion, awareness, and social transformation in the fight against gender-based violence.