

#WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Female characters of Tagore: Symbols of empowered women

Tagore's early writings (1881-1897) often focused on social injustice against women, female deities in his literature signified woman's inner strength. Tagore underscored that woman should never be passive, and he was very aware of women's social roles. Almost all of his female characters were plotted in traditional ways, but they were all quite strong. His women's liberation conquest was ahead of its time. As a result, one of his most significant contributions to society is the portrayal of women in his art.

"If education is a tool for human development and if education is birthright of a human being, I do not understand how we can deprive the women from education," is thus seen in Rabindranath Tagore's European Diary (1881).

CHARACTERS IN HIS NOVELS

Charulata

A protagonist of *Noshtonirh* (1901), she is a literary character who grew up lonely, a child to a young woman, neglected by a workaholic husband, and mistreated by prevalent chauvinism. But she proved herself in defiance of society's expectations through the power of her writing and creativity, which made her capable of taking greater responsibilities in her career.

Labonno

The female lead of Tagore's 10th novel *Shesher Kabita*, Labonno is portrayed as a progressive mind who has the strength to take the decisions of her own life, despite her social context. She is a symbol of feminism who thought of an independent life.



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