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## Voice Unbound: Extraordinary Indian Women's Lives And Their Voice In Autobiographical And Biographical Writing.

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### ABSTRACT:

Autobiography becomes a way of testifying to oppression and empowering the subject through their cultural inscription and recognition. The idea that autobiography can become the text of the oppressed, articulating through one person's experience, and experience which may be representative of a particular marginalized group, is an important one. Autobiography helps us to analyze the experiences and attitudes of a person. It is a sociological documentation of subjective experiences. It is the product of the surrounding in which the writer comes up and grown up. Indian women autobiographies express their social, political, economic and psychological struggle and their experiences throughout their life journey. In this research paper M.C. Mary Kom, Rtd. Lft. Gunjan Saxena, Indira Gandhi, Kamala Das, Sania Nehwal, Kiran Bedi, Kamala Markandaya ,Indira Goswani all this extraordinary women's autobiographical writing analyzed in detailed. This all autobiographical writing represents the fight of the self to create order out of random experiences and often mix arguments of history and culture.

**Key Words:** Identity, women Empowerment, Gender Study, Culture, Psychoanalytical analysis.

Autobiography has a long past. It is a collection of one's life events that narrated by the person such as personal account, family heritage, daily references and personal creative style. It contain not only the past experiences but also a significant message of life. This research paper on the historical survey of Indian women autobiographies in English also considers all those life narratives by non-literary figures which competent criticism have found to be of literary merit.

## Women in Art and Culture and their writing-

Indian women's autobiographies writing has a rich history with notable works dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the beginnings Rasasundari Devi is the first Indian women author biographical writer. Her autobiography '*Amar Jiban*' (1976) considered the first known autobiography of an Indian women. It provides insight into the status of women in 19<sup>th</sup> century Indian society. This autobiography gives the reader an insight into the life of a housewife in the house of a prosperous east Bengali Zamindar. It reveals so many issues faced women in 19<sup>th</sup> century. It shown the realities of a girl child in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it talks of pain, subordination and oppression. It also reflects women's angst, loss and cry for help.

Indira Goswami is notable writer in Indian writing. She is also known as Mamoni Raison Goswami. Her autobiography '*An Unfinished Autobiography*' published in 1988. It explores her life, particularly her experiences with grief and loneliness after the death of her husband and her journey to Vrindavan, her experiences as a widow. Besides her autobiography she is also known for her novels including '*The Blue Necked God*' and '*The Moth Eaten howdah of the tusker*', which also explore themes of widowhood and social issues.

Kamala Markandaya was born in 1924. She is known for her novels that explore themes of post colonialism, the human condition, urbanization, poverty, sexuality, gender, interracial relationship, colonization and the impact of western culture her most popular work was '*Nectar in a Sieve*' (1954) it portrays the life of an Indian peasant. Her other work '*A Silence of Desire*' (1960). It explores marriage and conflicting values.

Kamala Markandaya gave voice to women and their problems. She has been recognized as one of the outstanding women novelist in the commonwealth literary scene.

Kamla Das is an Indian author and poet. Her autobiography '*My Story*' originally published in Malayalam and then translated in English language. Kamla Das's autobiography is a loud protest of a married woman suppressed in a male dominated society. She wrote to maintain her feminine identities. She reflect her troubles, psychological trauma and frustration. It is a search for self through her feminine experience her poem '*An Introduction*' is also confessional. In her autobiography she wrote openly and frankly about female sexual desire and experience of being an Indian women.

## Pioneering Women in Indian History and her writing -

Indira Gandhi is the one of pioneering women in Indian political history. '*My Truth*' is an autobiography of India's first and only prime minister of India. This is the story of Indira Gandhi's life in her own words. It first published in India and then France in 1980. Her autobiography provides a glimpse into her childhood, her relationship with her father Jawaharlal Nehru, and her marriage to Reroze Gandhi. It highlights her experiences growing up in a prominent political family and how it shaped her personality.

Her autobiography is not just a personal memoir but also an insiders account of Indira Gandhi's political history since independence. It reveals her thoughts on major events, controversies, and policy decisions,

offering a unique perspective on her role in shaping India's future. It showcase her leadership style, her vision for India, and her commitment to the country's development. It also provides a nuanced understanding of India's history, culture, and politics during a critical period.

Through her autobiography Indira Gandhi reflects on her life, experiences, and decisions providing a deeper understanding of her personality and motivations.

It unfold the life of a gifted person who born a remarkable family. It has glimpse of her personal and political life.

## **Women in sports and their writing-**

M.C. Mary Kom is the unbreakable women of Indian sports. Her autobiography is '*Unbreakable: An Autobiography*' published in 2012. She is the Olympic medalist of boxing. She is an Indian Olympic boxer as well as politician and former member of Raja Sabha. Her autobiography 'Unbreakable' is a testament to her strength, resilience and determination. As a boxer she achieved immense success, winning numerous gold medals at AIBA World Boxing Championships and becoming the only women to win a medal in each of the first seven world championship. Apart from her boxing career, she is also involved in politics and social activism also supports the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Mary Kom gives message through her autobiography to young generation Believes in yourself. Never give up on your aspirations no matter how difficult the journey may seem. She believes in hard work determination. Her self-belief is very strong and it helps her to achieve success. She is truly an Unbreakable figure in the contemporary history of India and epitome of women power which personifies freedom, courage, aspiration and spirit of never to give up in life. Her struggle from being a young girl to a professional boxing championship captures verisimilitudes of a person, who knows, poverty, insurgency in Manipur, pregnancy and motherhood, politics in the sports administration etc...

Sania Nehwal is the Indian badminton player. Her autobiography '*Playing to Win*' is chronicles of her journey from a young badminton player to a world class champion. This autobiography delves into her upbringing her relationships with her parents and her career. It covers her journey from district-level wins to Olympic participation and the challenges and triumphs she faced throughout her journey. This autobiography also offers a glimpse into her life outside the court. It aims to inspire readers and also young players how her dedication, hard work and positive mindset highlighting dreams can be turned into reality. She has been honored with many prestigious awards like Arjuna Award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan and also Padma Shri Award.

Sania inspires young generation through her autobiography. She points out the new generation's demands and their current issues. She gives message by her writing to young players.

## Women in Arm force and their writing –

Rtd. Lft. Gunjan Saxena is an Indian Air Force officer and former helicopter pilot. Her autobiography '*The Kargil Girl*' published in 2020. It explores several major themes that highlight her journey as a pioneering female pilot in the Indian air Force. She faced numerous challenges throughout her journey, including skepticism and bias but she achieve her goals by her determination and hard work. Her autobiography emphasizes the crucial role of Saxena's family, particularly her father, supporting and encouraging her dreams of joining the Air Force. This autobiography provides a firsthand account of her the Kargil War, detailing Saxena's experience as a pilot in the conflict zone, including her missions to rescue soldiers and gather intelligence. It also serves as an inspiration to women and girls, demonstrating the potential for women to excel in male-dominated fields and overcome obstacles. It highlights Saxena's personal growth from her childhood to her training and deployment, showcasing her development as a confident and skilled pilot.

Kiran Bedi is known for her pioneering work in the Indian Police Service (IPS). She is first women to join the IPS in 1972, she Trans the way for future generations of women in law enforcement. Her autobiography '*I Dare*' (2024) is a compelling account of her life and career as police officer, social activist, and politician. It is a chronicles her journey from her formative years to her tenure in the Indian Police Service, highlighting her mindset in addressing policing, prison management, and training.

She shared her experiences as the first women IPS officer, how she faced challenges and overcoming obstacles in a male-dominating field. It gives the insights into her personal life, struggles, and triumphs. Her autobiography is an inspiration to women and girls. She implemented significant reforms in Tihar Jail, advocate against corruption. She use her platform to raise awareness and promote transparency in governance.

## Conclusion

These extraordinary women's autobiographies showcase the diversity and range of Indian women's experiences, highlighting their struggles, triumphs, and contributions to various fields. Women from different fields like art, culture, sports, armed force, literature, and politics offer the valuable insights into the country's history, culture and social dynamics. Intelligent women took their experiences of being females and shaped their stories on the form of writing autobiography. Their writing is addressed not only the race but identity and gender issues as well. Autobiography is an effective method and resource to visualize any person's bitter experiences which they indurate in society.

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