

## Navigating Patriarchy: A Feminist Analysis of Preeti Shenoy's *The Secret Wish List*

**-Ravinder Kaur Gurdatta**

MGM University,  
Institute of Indian and Foreign Languages

### **Abstract:**

*This paper attempts to present a feminist analysis of Preeti Shenoy's *The Secret Wish List*. The study examines the protagonist Diksha's multifaceted journey from subjugation under patriarchal norms to reclaiming her autonomy and individuality. The paper explores the intricate interplay of opposing forces—such as individual desire versus societal expectation and freedom versus conformity—uncovering the holistic interconnectedness of these binaries in Diksha's narrative arc.*

*Moreover, I have emphasized the multiplicity of interpretations embedded within the text. I seek to explore how Diksha's internal struggles, external conflicts, and transformative self-realization challenge traditional gender norms and redefine empowerment in a contemporary Indian context.*

*By reconfiguring the binaries that define the protagonist's life, the paper unveils the nuances of her journey and the complexities of navigating patriarchal systems. Furthermore, it highlights the text's relevance to broader feminist discourse, particularly in addressing the resilience of women within culturally entrenched structures. Through this comprehensive analysis, the study not only reinforces literary critique but also offers fresh insights into the evolving representation of Indian womanhood in modern literature.*

### **Keywords:**

*Feminism, Patriarchy, Self-Empowerment, multiplicity, interpretations*

