

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086  
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2008–09)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/GD54

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2010  
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH  
FIFTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE  
PAPER : LITERATURE AND GENDER  
TIME : 3 HOURS  
MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Answer any two in about 750 words each: 2×20 = 40

1. Discuss *Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law* as a reflection of the tensions experienced as a wife and mother.
2. Evaluate Deshpande's Small Remedies as an attempt to define female destiny
3. How does the autobiography *I am Saravanan/Vidya* delineate the dominant prejudices of a sexually obsessed society?

II. Answer any three in about 300 words each: 3×15 = 45

1. Comment on the depiction of female identity as against the plurality, diversity and contradictions of our contemporary culture in Deshpande's Small Remedies
2. How does Grace Nichols recreate the most painful experience of being a fat black woman?
3. Critically examine your prescribed literary texts in relation to Catherine MacKinnon's theory that in "a society in which equality is a fact, not merely a word, words of racial or sexual assault and humiliation will be nonsense syllables".
4. Explore the relationship between literature and gender in *I am Saravanan/Vidya*.
5. Analyse *Winnetou's Snake Oil Show from Wigwam City* as a satire on stereotyping.

**III. Attempt an analysis of any one of the following extracts:**

**1×15 = 15**

*[A]*

The fat black woman could only conclude  
that where it come to fashion  
the choice is lean  
Nothing much beyond size 14

**OR**

*[B]*

A child's birth is a rebirth for a woman, it's like becoming part of the world once again. The first time you emerge through someone else's pain and blood, this time, it's your own. The pain of your body opening, on the point, you think, of splitting apart, as if a divine Krishna is standing somewhere nearby, giving Nature the signal by splitting a blade of grass. The stretching that goes on and on, the pain maddening you until you think – I want to die, I want to be out of this. And then, at the moment when it seems impossible, when death seems the only recourse, the miracle happens, the pinhole opening becomes a head-sized aperture. And from death you return to life, not just the new life you've produced, but your own life, renewed, given back to you.

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