

Dalit Literature

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Abstract: *Dalits are the lower caste people regarded as untouchables, Dalits are the lowest-ranked members of the Hindu Caste system, Dalit literature is spreading knowledge about the struggles of Dalits and bringing change in Hindu System, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jyoti Rao Pule, and Periyar have made tremendous contributions towards the upliftment of Lower caste power and abolishing the discrimination system, Dalit literature in India during the last many a long time has emerged as a separate and important category of literature in lots of Indian languages. It has supplied a brand-new voice and identification to the groups which have skilled discrimination, exploitation, and marginalization due to the hierarchical caste system. Dalit literature has additionally made a forceful case for human dignity and social equality. In the mild of the developing significance of the have a look at Dalit literature, this paper tries to discover the foundation, ideas, and contributions of Dalit literature in India and brings out its importance and key capabilities.*

Keywords: Challenged, Communities, Dalit Literature, Dignity, Equality, Exploitation, History of Dalit Literature, Socio-political Commitment, Untouchable, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

Dalit literature has hooked up itself as a separate class of writing in a number of Indian languages. Several writings beneath this class have emerged as a robust voice of Dalit communities in extraordinary kinds of literature over the past a very long time. The effect of Dalit writers and writings has additionally forced the literary institutions and academics to apprehend as a separate category of literature and praise it via numerous means. All foremost universities in India have given area to Dalit literature in their curriculum and studies timetable of literature departments. It is, therefore, pertinent to discover the idea, capabilities, and foundation of Dalit literature in India.

Who are Dalits?

The Indian caste system follows a hierarchical pattern according to Hindu beliefs. Traditionally there are four caste systems and one of the category people who fall outside this caste system is the Dalits. This community members stand in the lowest rank of the Indian Hindu system.

The term 'Dalit' refers to a social group of people who are considered to be 'Untouchables' based on the Hindu Varana system; they are deemed to be too impure. They are identified as oppressed or broken people. In Hindu reincarnation theories, people believed that those who were born as untouchables were punished for misbehavior from their previous life. These untouchable caste communities were forbidden to join the religious and social life in the community, this led to the creation of fifth-varna i.e., Untouchables.

What is Dalit Literature?

Dalit literature is a term regarding 'Dalit Consciousness' and their identity as both individual and common in society. Dalit literature is a symbol of change and revolution. In an era where issues regarding human rights and human dignity occupied the major importance, Dalit literature is an attempt to cut down discrimination, and brutality, faced by the Dalit community in India. The Dalit literature includes comprising of poems, writing literature about battles faced by the Dalits in their culture. Dalit culture is one of the most important literary phenomena in post-independence India that is trying to restore dignity to a community that has been considered wrong for ages. Their struggles relating to their identity were finally being acknowledged with the formation of the Dalit works of literature.

Later development has also run alongside political movements such as the Indian freedom struggle even as B.R. Ambedkar's campaign on behalf of what was then called the depressed class. The role of literature in shaping not only political mobilization but also removing the social imaginary of Dalit communities

Features of Dalit Literature

Dalit literature is characterized by its fundamental criticism of the caste system and all kinds of discrimination and by its call for destroying social hierarchies. It is the literature on the social and political commitment that challenges the status quo. It is the literature questioning the exclusion from the mainstream of society and culture. It is the literature that promotes equality and human dignity. Most Dalit writers also believe that the principal purpose of writing literature is to bring about social change rather than recreation or mere intellectual sophistry.

Contributions towards Dalit Literature

1. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar - Dr. B. R. Ambedkar adopted various means to protect and safeguard the Dalit human rights in India, he also started the movement against Dalit discrimination by creating public opinion through his writings. His writing 'Equality for people' was started for the protection of the Dalit rights. He was a delegate at the round table conference in London where he asked for a separate electorate for the Dalits. Dr. Ambedkar guaranteed in the 1949 constitution of India, the formation of reservations in various fields such as employment and education, etc. he had a real vision towards the basic and fundamental rights of Indian citizens and elevating the schedule cast.
2. Mahatma Jyotirao Pule - He was an activist, social reformer, and writer who made contributions to the Dalit literature for uplifting the lower caste people. In 1873, Phule along with some of his followers formed the Satyashodhak Samaj to fight for the equal rights of people from the lower caste.
3. Ramaswamy Periyar - Periyar was the Messiah of the Dalits. He launched a powerful movement against Brahminism. He fought to get Dalit access to temples. He propagated the philosophies of self-respect, self-reform, and ending the caste system. Periyar's vision was the establishment of brotherhood, erasing the discrimination of lower caste members.

Major Dalit Writers

1. Namdeo Dhasal
2. Meena Kandasamy
3. Daya Pawar
4. Urmila Pawar
5. Baby Kamble
6. Omprakash Valmiki
7. B.R Ambedkar
8. Narendra Jadhavi
9. Kancha Ilaiah
10. Mulk Raj Anand
11. Satyanarayan
12. Bama Faustina Soosairay
13. Chitra Banerjee Devikurni
14. Sharan Kumar Limbale
15. Vasant Moon

Major Dalit Autobiographies

1. P.E Sonakamble- Athavaninche
2. Madhav Kondvikar- Mukkam Post Devache Gothane
3. Shankar Rao Kharat- Tara Antarl
4. Uttam Bandu Tupe- Katyavarchi Pote
5. Nana Saheb Zodge- Phanjar
6. Keshav Meshram – Hakkikat Ani Jatayu

7. Rustam Achlkhmb – Gavki
8. Paratha Poke- Abharan
9. Daya Pawar- Baluta
10. Om Prakash Valmiki- Joothan
11. Bama- Karukku
12. Sharan Kumar Limbele- Akkarmashi
13. Narendra Jhadav- Our Caste A Memoir
14. Dada Saheb More- Gabal
15. G.Kalyan Rao- Untouchably Spring

Silent Features of Dalit Literature

1. Acknowledge Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy on the issue of liberty and independence
2. Buddha's atheism and rejection of soul in opposition to hollow ritualism
3. The opposition to the Verna system, caste discrimination
4. Support Brotherhood and not separatism
5. Support for freedom and social issues
6. Commitment to social change
7. Opposition to capitalism
8. The opposition to feudalism and BRAHMINISM

II. CONCLUSION

The role of this literature in shaping not only political mobilization but also the social imaginary of the Dalit communities and the public sphere are also key components of the protocols of reading and receiving Dalit texts engendered in the academic and cultural discussions around the domain. Aesthetics, politics, genre conventions, influences, and the "voice" of resistance, anger, and despair are part of the discussion in many essays. Others offer comparative studies of Dalit texts. Read variously as the literature of protest, sympathy, solidarity, and resistance, Dalit literature thrives in Indian languages, and in multiple forms, although oral narratives and stories that are popular in gatherings and meetings remain largely uncollected. New forms such as graphic novel have energized the field in recent years. Untouchability is a crime against humanity. Dalit literature, however, passes on a message of independence and revolution in regards to the caste system and discrimination among people.

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