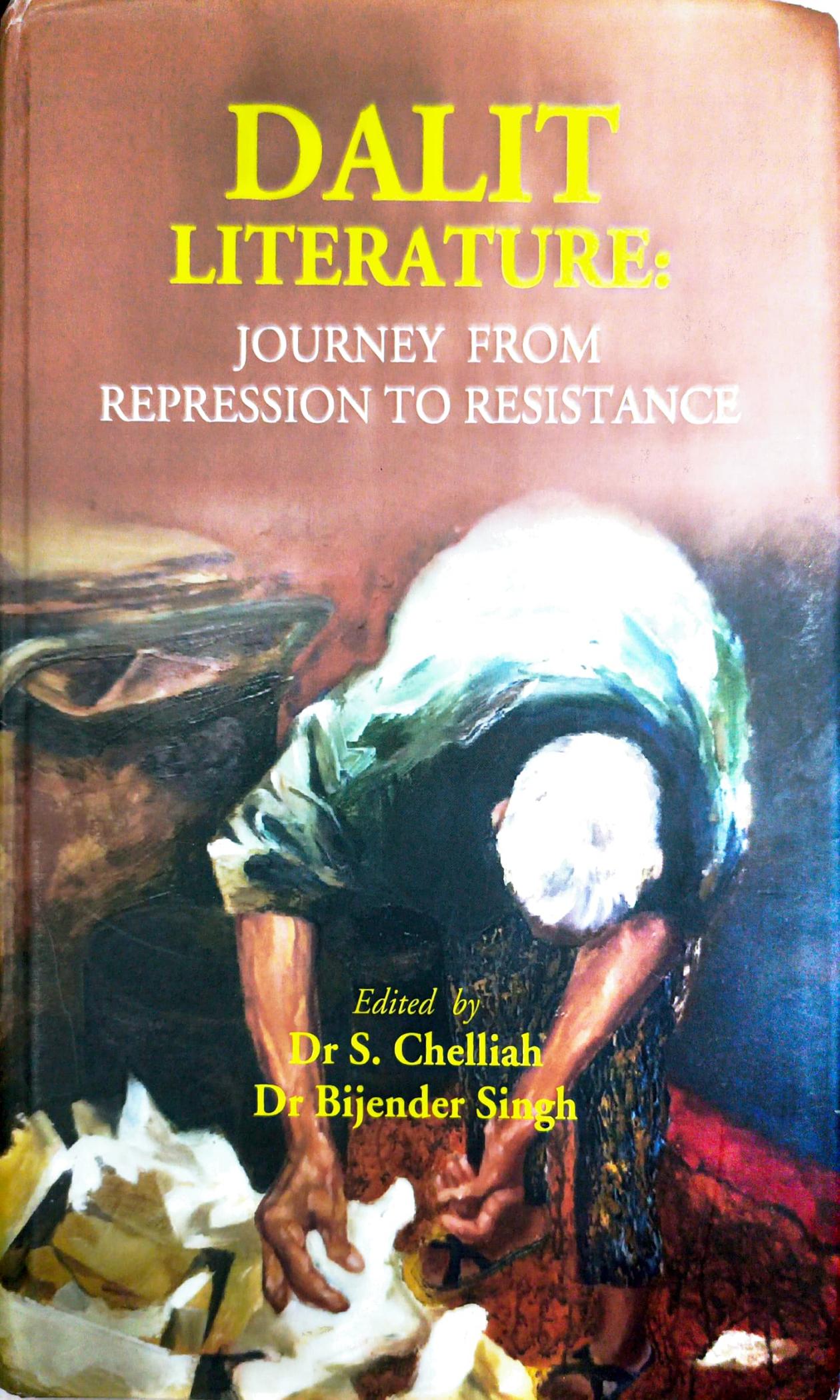


# DALIT LITERATURE:

JOURNEY FROM  
REPRESSION TO RESISTANCE



*Edited by*  
**Dr S. Chelliah**  
**Dr Bijender Singh**

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## 6

### **Tyranny by the Caste Hierarchs: An Analysis of Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance***

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— Dr Suruchi Sharma

Caste and class have been a determining factor of a person's status, place and position in the social hierarchy from the ancient Vedic times to the modern era. Indian caste system is among the world's oldest forms of surviving social stratification. The caste system which was said to be introduced in ancient period to regulate and discipline the society and its smooth functioning has paved way to discrimination and degradation. It was the system that divided the society into four *varnas*: Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra providing social stratification in a hierarchical manner assigning people an identity by their work and limiting their social mobility. Dr B.R. Ambedkar said, "Caste system is not merely division of labourers – rather quite different from division of labour – it is a hierarchy in which the division of labourers' are graded one above the other." There are many castes in India which are considered backward and these castes are being exploited and suppressed by the upper caste people. By the efforts of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the Indian Constitution has given a special privilege to these people and now the social status of these people has improved a lot.

Rohinton Mistry, a South-Asian Parsi writer, a social humanist, attempted his best to voice the cruelty and oppression experienced

The term 'Dalit' has often been used in academic discourse representing economic inequality, cultural exile, agonised experience, caste humiliation, social injustice, communal bias, social disability and suppression projecting rather significantly in the works of writers from the Indian subcontinent. While Dalit issues and concerns have drawn sufficient attention of various critics and writers, Dalit Literature in Indian languages is gaining ground recently with a steady leap towards due recognition. This book is a humble attempt to project how Dalit issues and concerns have had a decisive, revisionary impact on the discipline of literary and critical studies. Among first of its kind in India, present anthology of twenty-six research papers on various Dalit themes is bound to prove valuable for academics, students and scholars. As a valuable document of social criticism, this book entitled *Dalit Literature: Journey from Repression to Resistance* epitomises one healthy step for projecting Dalit consciousness in literature especially in Indian English Literature. In a nutshell, all lovers and readers of literature, especially Dalit Literature will find this book extremely useful and informative. The esteemed contributors, who have enriched this book with their valuable research papers, are Dr S. Chelliah, Dr Bijender Singh, Dr Shalini Saxena, Harish Mangalam, Dr V. Nagarajan, Dr M. Richard Enrico, Dr C. Ramya, Dr Suruchi Sharma, Dr F. Vincent Rajasekar, Neha Raina, Dr S. Pushpalatha, Dr Ishrat Jahan, K.M. Keerthika, Sanjay Kumar, S. Divya Bharathi, N. Kaushi Reddy, Guni Vats, Disha Sharma, S.F. Filomine White Sheela, Dr Kishore Ram, Dr Kusum Kanger, Dr Prachi Priyanka, A.P. Pavithra Bhuvaneshwari, Dr Jayashree Hazarika, Dr Pallavi Saxena, Dr Sumitra Singh, Dr Sakunthala A.I. and Dr Sadhana Agrawal.



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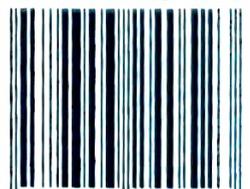
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