



# MAPPING MARGINALIZATION

Negotiating the Nexus of Exclusion

*Edited by*

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# **Mapping Marginalization: Negotiating the Nexus of Exclusion**

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## **Caste Determines Destiny: Analysing U. R. Ananthamurthy's *Samskara: A Rite for a Dead* from a Marginal Perspective**

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—Dr Suruchi Sharma

U.R. Ananthamurthy's novel *Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man* is about the monopoly and the decaying morals of the South Indian Brahmins. The problems of the poor Dalits, and especially the plight of dalit women has been depicted pitiable. Earlier, this novel was written and published in Kannada in 1965 and later it was translated by A. K. Ramanujan in 1976 and was published by Oxford University Press in 1978. U. R. Ananthamurthy has received Jnanapeeth Award also in 1995 and he was awarded Padma Bhushna in 1998.

This novel has its setting in a village having a majority of Brahmins in the state of Karnataka in India. The Madhava Brahamins's adherence to the rigid caste system has been depicted in the novel. The reality and the imagination are two different things. Traditions have their own place but the conservatism and narrow-mindedness become chains in the progress of a person which is the core theme of this novel.

The novel begins with the background of the death of Naranappa. The novel opens with Praneshacharya's daily routine and his busy schedule. He bathes his

# MAPPING MARGINALIZATION

## Negotiating the Nexus of Exclusion

Marginalization, on the basis of multiple factors, is an interminable reality consciously or unconsciously practised all over the world. Individuals, kinfolk, or clans, who have a low ranking place in the socio-economic hierarchy, are commonly called subalterns. The subalterns or the marginalised also deserve equal rights and respect in the society. In English Literature in India, the current focus of many researchers is on diverse aspects of marginal strands just to empower the powerless. The subalterns are blatantly incarcerated by the spiteful attitude of the authoritative and powerful people. The lower strata of the society have been deprived of their rights and opportunities, but the efforts of the writers can mitigate this level of infringement of rights. Gender-based discrimination is the bitter reality of the twenty-first century. The extremely alienated and unnoticed community in the world is known as the third-gender. Religious fanaticism spawns bigotry and gratuitous prejudices. Present anthology is a compendium of thirty-one well-written research papers on different aspects of marginality or subalternity. The valued contributors of this anthology are Professor D. Amalraj, Dr M. Leelavathi, Dr Sandeep Kumar, Dr S. Dheva Rajan, Dr Raja Basu, Dr Sumeet Brar, Dr Sumitra Singh, Dr Protibha Mukherjee Sahukar, Dr Budhanath Pratihast, Dr V. Vellaichamy, Dr Suruchi Sharma, Dr S. Radhamani, Dr Susanta Kumar Sahu, Dr V. Umamageswari, Dr Sayarabanu I. Durvesh, Dr C. Ramya, A. P. Pavithra Bhuvanewari, Kavita Thapliyal, Subrata Ray, J. Kavithanjali, K. Sunitha Devi, Aparna. B., Dr Kusum Kanger, Dr C. Ramya, Dr Pinky, Dr K. R. Athista, Dr Anitha J. Mattam, Dr Meetu Bhatia Kapur, Dr Ajit Kumar, Dr M. Krishnaraj, Dr Shikha Saxena, Dr S. Chelliah and Dr Bijender Singh.



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