



Dalit Men's Autobiographies

Convergences and Divergences

Edited by

Dr Bijender Singh

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Marginalisation and Identity Formation in Sheoraj Singh Bechain's *My Childhood on My Shoulders*

Dr Suruchi Sharma

Dalits are those poor or ostracized people who live their life at the mercy of others just because they are not accepted by the mainstream society due to their low caste status. Indian social system was formed to cater the requirements of all the people because currency did not play so much vital role at that time, and most of the work was done by the exchange of things. That's why Indian society was divided into different castes.

Ancient Indian Hindu society was divided into four *varnas* and these *varnas* were important in their unique manner. Out of these *varnas*, these were the Shudras who were the lowest of the low and they did all kinds of menial jobs. They had to do all kinds of those works which were detested by the other three *varnas*.

As time rolled by, changes came in the Hindu society also and among these, there was a caste of those people who skinned and disposed of animal carcasses. These people would deal in tanning and leather craft and were known as 'Chamars'. They are known by different names in different states of India who are mainly associated with the working of any form of leather.

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