



DALIT
LITERATURE
RECENT RESPONSES
AND RUMINATIONS

Edited by

Dr S. Chelliah
Dr Bijender Singh

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Struggles of a Dalit Luminary: Peeping into the Life and Works of Harish Mangalam

Dr Suruchi Sharma

Dalit writers from all over India have contributed their works in Indian Writing in English and Modern Indian Literature in Translation. Among them a renowned figure, Harish Mangalam is from Gujarat. He was born in a small and an obscure village Falu, District Mehsana in North Gujarat on February 15, 1952. He was born in the household of a handloom weaver who lived life from hand to mouth. It was a large family stricken with poverty and social discrimination where he girded himself for the onward journey of his life. His father's name was Jethabhai and mother's name was Divaben. His father was known by name Jethabha who was very expert in hand weaving on handloom. Jethabha was hard weaver and was constantly weaving cloth of close texture. Jethabha's family was very big having eleven children—six sons and five daughters. One son and two daughters were expired in their early age. It was very difficult to meet the two ends, but owing to good quality of *Pachbedi* with close texture, people preferred to purchase it from Jethabha instead of other weavers. Moreover, at that time, there was no textile mill, so there was no alternative left to the farmers of the villages except to purchase *Pachbedi* from Jethabha.

Dalit literature with its traditions of protest, anger and rebellion against the mainstream literature has found its place on the world literary scenario thereby establishing itself as a distinct literary genre which has recently emerged in a milieu in which there is rather undoubtedly an increasing recognition and acknowledgement of the value of Dalit writings neatly conveying an unmistakable sense of optimism and sound hope for some better future with a firm sense of conviction that Dalit writings do convincingly interrogate and establish shared assumptions, views or opinions regarding Dalit consciousness in literature. Having received its first impetus with the arrival of notable and respectable leaders like Mahatma Phule and Dr Ambedkar in Maharashtra, who laid emphasis on the seminal concerns of Dalits through their theoretical writings, Dalit literature is said to have given birth to a new trend in Indian Writing in English. This edited volume of 26 research papers is a humble attempt to discover and fertilize the vast virgin territory of Dalit subjects in India with a focus on social hypocrisy and taboos, class discrimination class exploitation, intersectionality of caste, class and gender, panorama of psychological consciousness questioning caste and gender inequalities, subalternity, social realism and casteism, Dalit feminist standpoint, social injustice, Dalit feminism, longing for human integrity and dignity, vanquishing suppression through education, caste-class nexus, conservative and hedonistic religious extremism, marginalization, societal oppression and suppression, female emancipation, Dalit atrocities, class struggle, social and economic injustice, etc. This book will definitely serve its purpose of awakening Dalit consciousness in the readers.

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