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THE INTERIORS

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Editor

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EDITORIAL

Exclusion has a long history and still percolates in several forms and at different layers in the society at present leading to marginalisation of individuals and communities on the basis of varying identity markers like caste, class, religion, gender, language, colour, age etc. Despite the teachings of prophets like Gautam Buddha, Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohammad exclusion still persists in the society. The theory of subaltern has emerged as a vital area of literary study in the contemporary society. The subalterns have a history of facing ill-treatment, oppression and even violence at the hands of the stronger community. However, despite being silent for ages, they have tried to speak through their actions as a way to protest against the injustices meted out to them and have struggled to create their own identity. The term 'subaltern' is generally used to refer to the marginalised groups and to those who are socially, politically and geographically outside of the hegemonic power structure. Literature does not grow in a vacuum; it is given impetus shape, direction and even era of concern by social, political and economic forces in a particular society. Marginality is generally employed to interpret and analyse socio-cultural, political and economic spheres, where deprived people struggle to gain access to resources and equal participation in social life.

Human society has always been controlled and guided by the powerful. Ever since its beginning, society follows the dictates of those who belong to the privileged class. The various divisions that we find in human society are mostly man-made; social stratification is the most vulnerable area of its fabric. Voices have often been raised against discrimination in society - that divides man from man in different strata like the haves and have-nots, upper class, middle class and lower class, untouchability, minorities, women, weaker section, physically challenged and so on, but those voices of protests have been silenced by some way or the other. These downtrodden people have ever been marginalised or excluded from the main stream of society and thus they have been deprived of social justice.

Writers like Mulk Raj Anand, Arundhati Roy, Aravind Adiga, Bama, Mahasweta Devi and many others have raised their voices against marginalisation in their writings. The present volume of *The Interiors* contains twenty well-written papers. The scholars have mainly focused on topics related to myth, children literature, the refugee life, feminism, marginalisation, identity crisis, human values, English language and comparative literature. Besides, the Journal also includes two book reviews, four poems, penned by the budding scholars. One translated short story entitled "The Flame of Hunger" has also been included in the present issue of the Journal.

The challenging task of publishing the present issue of the Journal has been possible only because of the constant encouragement of my mother, Dr. V. R.

Agrawal, former Professor & Head, Dept. of Sanskrit, Post-Graduate Centre, Gaya College, Gaya (Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya) who shaped my personality and raised me to the height where I am. I invoke her grace for any good that I may do in this life. I feel obliged to the members of the Academic Advisory Board and all the Associate Editors and also to the panel of reviewers but for whose continuous support and encouragement this Journal would not have seen the light of the day. I thank all the contributors, who contributed their scholarly papers to the Journal. I am also grateful to my teachers for reviewing two books and to the creative writers for their literary compositions. I also thank my departmental colleagues, research scholars, friends, well wishers and all associates who rendered support to me in one way or the other.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not record my thanks to my wife, Dr. Shalini Agrawal (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, Dr. V. K. S. College, Rafiganj, Aurangabad, Bihar) whose active and ungrudging help proved fruitful in completing the work requiring sustained and patient labour, undivided attention and pointed concentration. I also bless my sons Arush Agrawal (IV year, SLS, Pune) and Ansal Agrawal (Std. XII, DAV Public School, Cantt. Area, Gaya) for helping me in numerous ways. Ms. Kanchan Devi, Proprietor, Shivam Computer Press too, deserves thanks who designed and composed the present issue of the Journal. I am also thankful to Mr. Rakesh Yadav, Proprietor, Adhyayan Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi for the final printing of the Journal.

Finally, I invite the active co-operation from readers in the endeavour to promote a proper understanding of literature as an aid to make living really worthwhile. Constructive criticism and suggestions from scholars are earnestly solicited for the improvement of the Journal in future issues.

1st July, 2022

Neeraj Kumar