

Articulating Marginalized Identities in the Works of Shailesh Matiyani

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Abstract:

The literary landscape of Uttarakhand is illuminated by several writers right from very famous poets like Sumitranandan Pant to contemporary poets like Leela Dhar Jagudi and Manglesh Dabral, prose writers like Vidya Sagar Nautiyal to Manohar Shyam Joshi. In their works, these writers have written about Uttarakhand: its peculiar geographical location, simple life, verdant hills, pure rivers, women's hard life, people's faith in God, economic inequality between the rich and the poor and so on. Besides this, discrimination on the basis of caste, gender or other factors experienced by marginalized individuals from various areas of society too finds echo in the works of many of these writers who have given a voice to the sufferings of marginalized people. Through their stories, novels and poetry, these authors have depicted the realities of marginalized people's lives. Shailesh Matiyani was one of the of the very prominent writers of Uttarakhand. In this paper I have analyzed some famous works of Shailesh Matiyani with prime focus on the theme of marginalization.

Keywords: Discrimination, Marginalization, Verdant Hills.

Rightly known as People's Writer or *Jankathakar*, Ramesh Singh Matiyani 'Shailesh' is one of the most prominent writers of Uttarakhand. He has depicted the struggles and the fighting spirit of the Indian lower and lower middle class in his works with great authenticity, because he himself belonged to this class. Pankaj Bisht, another well - known writer from Uttarakhand, pays tribute to Matiyani in these words:

... how intimate was his depiction of the displaced people from the villages in the urban slums and those compelled to live and die on the footpaths. You won't find this kind of intimacy in any other language. Matiyani's protagonists are beggars, pick pockets, lumpens, drop outs, marginalized characters. Fatedness- the lopsided policies of progress- they were its victims; and yet, their inner life was so full of humanism and faith. (qtd. in "Wikipedia" 3)

The Daughter's Tale : Marginalization in Mrinal Pande's Daughter's Daughter

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Abstract

Gender discrimination is one of the most burning issues of contemporary times in India. As we are living in 21st century but still families are not much sure about the future and career of girls. Their parents unknowingly fill their minds with negativity so they start feeling themselves inferior to men. This paper aims to analyse the autobiographical work of Mrinal Pande *Daughter's Daughter* in which the issue of gender-based discrimination faced by girls in Indian society is reflected through the different incidents recalled by the author during her years of growing up in a large family.

Keywords: Autobiographical, Contemporary, Gender discrimination, Inferior.

Mrinal Pande's book *Daughter's Daughter*, published in 1993, is not a novel in the usual sense of the term as it doesn't narrate a single story: it is in fact a collection of several stories narrated under different chapters. *Daughter's Daughter* (1993) focuses on the childhood of a girl brought up under the patriarchal system. This autobiographical work is divided into VII parts in which the author looks back at the gender-based marginalization from the girl protagonist's point of view. The protagonist Tinu describes the reminiscences of her early childhood days spent at Almora at her grandmother's house with her mother and an elder step-sister Dinu.

Through the various reminiscences described in *Daughter's Daughter*, the author has underscored the numerous challenges girls had to face in those days, specially the girls in North India belonging to an upper caste family and how they survived. The reminiscences described by Pande in this work are basically about how as a girl, she had to battle so many prejudices in those times but they are also about how she "survived as a daughter or a daughter's daughter even" (Foreword).

There are several instances of the marginalization of girls recorded by Pande in the book *Daughter's Daughter*. Tinu illustrates quite a few instances whereby she and Dinu suffer gender discrimination at the