



Explicating the Poetry of Meena Kandasamy: An Encyclopedia of Woeful Inventories about Dalit Women

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Abstract

Gender and Caste are the key words for Dalit writings. But strangely enough majority of spokespersons of Dalit assertion continues to be men and their representation continue to be androcentric, so it is quite obvious that within the Dalit literary space, Dalit women have always modicum of representation. Meena Kandasamy can be considered an exception among the Dalit writers not only because she maintains her focus, in most of her writing, on caste and particularly on the plight of women belonging to the Dalit community, even because she is hailed as the first Indian poet writing Dalit poetry in English. In her poetry she succinctly details the innumerable sufferings and ignominy in the lives of the downtrodden women and their lived experiences for being the “marginalized”. This paper is an attempt to elucidate the poetry of Meena Kandasamy to explicate how her poetry represents the awful situation and the agonies of Dalit women.

Keywords: Dalit poetry, women, gender, caste, agonies, feminism, Meena Kandasamy

