



Mahashweta Devi's *Draupadi* : A Feministic and Gender Perspective Analysis



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Abstract :

This paper focuses on a feministic and gender perspective analysis in *Draupadi*. The word gender evokes a stimulated reaction particularly in today's atmosphere of continuous debates questioning the senility of our society in the wake of multiple incidents of discrimination based on Gender reported across the globe. When the focus is concentrated mainly on the Indian society, gender becomes the basis for deciding the fate of the subject, even in the matters concerning the basics such as birth and death in the form of selective abortion of the female foetus. In the gender biased patriarchal Indian society, most of the women are considered secondary, are subjugated and exploited for being women. India's vast history has glimpses of innumerable examples corroborating the stated claim. Raja Ram Mohan Roy's bold step protesting practice of sati system in the early part of the 20th century was instrumental in stunting gender related bias existing in society. The practice of Sati, the illogical practice no more exists due to the intervention of social activists like Raja Ram Mohan Roy. The other deep-rooted sexist practices, which continue to haunt Indian women, have today reached the peak resulting in groups of individuals

and activists protesting and demanding strict action against the perpetrators of gender bias.

Apart from gender bias, another prominent aspect of social sphere that is visible in her works is "Identity" and its related issues. Identity is the primary bone of contention in any society, Indian society being no exception has made the individuals burn their life's oil in establishing it. They expect identity to be unique. In the era of globalization, identity being no longer safe can be lost, stolen or destroyed. This leaves individuals in utter state of insecurity. This complexity is another aspect in Mahashweta Devi's fiction. Her works *Rudali*, *Draupadi*, *Dust on the Road*, *Bitter Soil* and *The Queen of Jhansi* are highly contentious of these issues demanding systematic critical analysis and deciphering. The present paper titled "Mahashweta Devi's *Draupadi*: A Feministic and Gender perspective analysis" is an attempt to analyze highly appreciated work of Mahashweta Devi, *Draupadi*.

Keywords : Gender, Feminism, Identity, Bias, Exploitation, Subjugation, Mahashweta Devi