

DALIT LITERATURE AND CULTURE.

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ABSTRACT

“DALIT” is a Marati word which means broken or crushed in to pieces, grounddown or divided. It is not the term for cast. Dalit is as word chosen by Mahar community to replace the titles of untouchables and Harijans, the lowest caste in the Indian Society, who has been marginalized in social political and cultural fronts. The term Dalit is an identity of self assertion chosen by themselves.

Dalit Literature:-

Dalit Literature first began when Maharashtra sahitya sangham led the conference in 1959 in Bombay. Later real Dalit Literature traces after late 1960's. It is a new dimension in the day to day and used up literature. Dalit Literature is an out burst of the burning flame of exploited people from many centuries. The aim of Dalit Literature is to reformulate the Caste System prevailed in India. It emerged as a collective voice questioning through social realities. Dalit Literature potrays the sorrows, slavery, tribulations degradation and poverty endured by dalits or untouchables. It is often described to have the purpose of revolutionary liberatory and transformational form.

Dalit Culture:-

The Tradition of ancient India didn't have anything for dalits that they own proudly, though they have historically been involved in various cultural activities. They are always been reduced to being associated with menial occupations like cleaning, skinning, disposing dead animals etc., so they have to look at their own culture to develop their own myths. They created their own poetry, folk songs and musical instruments to satisfy their cultural needs and aspirations. The difference of power and absence of public space led to identity assertion and increased level of consciousness to attain dignity and social status.

Dalit Movement :-

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar and Jyotirao phule were great anti caste leaders who tought for the emanicipation of Dalits or erstwhile untouchable community. Both of them harshly criticised the Brahminical structure of Hindu Social Order Prevalent in Indian society which has been perpetuated by the upper castes. “Dalit Panthers” a militant organization of dalit youth was formed in Maharashtra in 1972 to combat the caste discrimination. This has been accompanied by Dalit Literature and inspiration of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.

Key Words:- Marginalised, Dalit Culture, Social Status, Hindu Social order.