

# Gender, Society and Minority: New Perspectives

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# **Gender, Society and Minority: New Perspectives**

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## **PREFACE**

The literature of the present century is very different from the previous one as it has new issues and challenges to address and ponder upon. The very concept of gender, race, culture, society, and minority and their literary ramifications have undergone enormous change over the years, and with these evolving paradigms, contemporary authors in English writing are experimenting with themes, styles, and techniques of writing to communicate effectively the emerging sensibilities of the present era. History, culture, myth, folklore, technology, ecology, gender, and politics are all disciplines that are being told and re-told from myriad perspectives. New genres such as graphic novels, Chick-lit, Science fiction, disability discourse, pulp fiction, green literature, gerontological fiction, cinema and theatre, and LGBTQ literature are reflecting and exploring multidimensional facets of concepts such as race, ethnicity, and socio-cultural shifts in innovative forms and frames.

In the present scenario, Minority Discourse has become a personal commentary of the Subalterns. Women across the globe, as minorities, started writing ‘their’ stories as a challenge to the existing narratives and frames. However, the plurality of feminism has become the hallmark of the various layers among the women themselves. Several sections of women like the Black women, the Muslim women, and the Dalit women, to name a few, felt left out, hence, the emergence of various sub-feminisms within feminism, to represent the ‘minority within the minority discourse’. South Asian literature offers a unique lens through which one can explore the complex dynamics of race. From thought-provoking narratives to insightful

analyses, South Asian writers have delved deep into the intricacies of racial identity, discrimination, and societal power structures.

Ethnicity is not a singular concept but rather multifaceted. A person can identify with multiple ethnicities simultaneously or with varying degrees of intensity. The world is rich with ethnic diversity, with thousands of distinct ethnic groups worldwide, each with unique cultural characteristics and history. Ethnicity can have significant social and political implications, affecting access to resources, representation in government, and opportunities within society. Ethnicity can also influence social relationships and interactions.

Since the origin of human civilization man has been governed by the parameters of society and culture. Gender and ethnicity have been two instrumental components of his existential identity. In the wake of unprecedented scientific advancements, the formation of international organizations, strong currents of cosmopolitanism, and ultrafast communication technology have mitigated all kinds of distance across the globe and this blurring of the boundaries across cultures has altered the socio-political and economic construct/fabric/engineering of human society. In this evolving scenario, the basic tenets of intersectionality and multiple marginalities are being tested and argued in a new light. The marked shift demands an urge to look afresh into these categories from the current perspective. In this light, the proposed volume aims to delve into the different aspects of contemporary literature concerning notions about the existential crisis of center vis a vis periphery, gender dynamics, quest for identity, retelling of myths and orality, the question of rights and inclusion of the subalterns and so on. It has been so designed to meet the needs of

scholars and researchers engaged in the study and interpretation of the conceptual framework of gender, society, and minority on a broader scale.

We would like to acknowledge the encouragement and keen interest of all the contributors for not just collaborating with us but being the torch-bearers during this process. Their valuable insights and specific analysis of the subject have enriched the volume more than our expectations. A word of appreciation for the publishers for meticulously curating everything with such finesse and coming out with the volume in the stipulated time. We, from the editorial desk, sincerely hope that this will be a journey of learning and unlearning for all of us in many possible ways and that this book serves the purpose it stands for in the academic circle.

**Dr. Pooja Joshi**  
**Dr. Aditi Kalra**  
**(Editors)**

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

This edited volume is a work of multi-disciplinary research and exploration in which scholars and researchers from various fields and disciplines have contributed to the pursuit of revisiting some engaging constructs. There has always been a need to look at the issues of gender, socio-cultural spectrum, dynamics of race and ethnicity, and subaltern studies from different lenses across time and the globe. The book highlights the multidimensional nature of each of these categories with their overlapping ideas and intersecting connotations. Further, the most significant aspect of this work has been rendered in terms of covering a wide range of topics ranging from the retelling of myth and folklore to talking about Indian sex workers, from delving into autism behavioral patterns to dealing with AIDS in society, from mapping trauma to transcending intersectionality of race and gender, from unveiling women's crisis to reading ethnic identities, and cinematic study of Female Empowerment among many others.

## ABOUT THE EDITORS



**Dr. Pooja Joshi** is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan (India). She holds a doctoral degree in the writings of the Canadian theorist Northrop Frye. Besides publishing a wide range of research papers, she has also served as a review editor for journals. She has recently brought out an edited volume titled 'Dimensions of Gender and Women Empowerment'. A keen researcher and enthusiast of Northeast Indian Writings in particular, Dr. Joshi has also published in the domain of Cultural Studies, Comparative Literature, and Gender Studies.



**Dr. Aditi Kalra** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur with a teaching experience of more than a decade. She was awarded her Ph. D. on "Exploring Cosmopolitanism in the Select Narratives of Zadie Smith and Teju Cole". Her areas of expertise include Green Studies, Black Literature, Postcolonial Literature, Diaspora, and Linguistics. She has published scholarly research papers in reputed journals and books. Dr. Kalra has actively participated in numerous national and international conferences and seminars along with holding various administrative positions.



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