

Dalit Sensibility in Devanura Mahadeva's Novels

- Prof. Pundalik H. Madar

Introduction:

Devanur Mahadeva (b. 1948) is not a prolific writer. His literary output is limited to just three books. *Dvavanuru* (1973) a collection of seven stories, *Odalala* (1978), a short novel and *Kusumabale* (1988), the novel which won for him the Sahitya Akademi award. But no other Dalit writer has proved to be as influential as he in the post Navya period. There are two preasons for this: his unparalleled grasp of the complexities of Dalit life as a total insider and his path-finding search for indigenous narrative modes and styles.

Devanur is widely recognized as a Dalit writer. This is as it should significance of his work. For the first time in Kannada a Dalit writer has succeeded in holding to public gaze the life of his community which had melted into darkness but while doing so he has tackled the most vital issue of our times, that of survival and the problems arising out of it. What strikes us most when we look at his work as a whole is the progress he has made from a

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CONTENTS

Preface

1. A Democratic Election is Impossible without Media
Dr. Tammanna Y. 15
2. Information Technology: Soul of the Modern World
Dr. R.M. Sarvade 24
3. Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India:
Support Human Rights and Humanitarian Action
Dr. Rammanna G.T. 32
4. Democracy and the Opposition in India: Role,
Challenges and Way forward
Dr. Chandrashekara G.P. 41
5. Genocide: A Shameful Act and Crime against
Humanity
Dr. Shrimant Chavan 50
6. The Public Sector Undertaking & Enterprises in
Indian Economy
Dr. B.S. Kalmani 60
7. Role of Opposition in a Parliamentary Democracy in
India: Role, Challenges and Way Forward
Dr. Basavaraja. H 70
8. Water Resources Management in India: Challenges
and the way Forward
Dr. G.S. Chinagi 79

18. Dalit Sensibility in Devanura Mahadeva's Novels
Prof. Pundalik H. Madar **165**

19. Cultural Dilemmas and Identity Crisis in Chitra
Banerjee's *Queen of Dreams*
Prof. Sarfraj Ahamed **172**

20. Akkamahadevi: Shiva in Her Soul and Mystic Life
Dr. Ramesh P. Chavan **180**



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