

Reclaiming Gendered Narratives:

Representation, Identity and
Cultural Politics in
Literature and Media



Dr. H. Theresa Darlong
Dr. Dipankar Chakrabarti

Reclaiming Gendered Narratives: Representation, Identity and Cultural Politics in Literature and Media



**India | UAE | Nigeria | Uzbekistan | Montenegro | Iraq |
Egypt | Thailand | Uganda | Philippines | Indonesia**
www.parabpublications.com

Reclaiming Gendered Narratives: Representation, Identity and Cultural Politics in Literature and Media

Edited By:

Dr. H. Theresa Darlong

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

Sri Aurobindo General Degree College (English Medium)

Kunjaban, Agartala, Tripura, India

Dr. Dipankar Chakrabarti

Principal

Sri Aurobindo General Degree College (English Medium)

Kunjaban, Agartala, Tripura, India

Copyright 2026 by Dr. H. Theresa Darlong and Dr. Dipankar Chakrabarti

First Impression: May 2026

Reclaiming Gendered Narratives: Representation, Identity and Cultural Politics in Literature and Media

ISBN: 978-93-48959-03-4

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20582009>

Rs. 799/- (\$80)

No part of the book may be printed, copied, stored, retrieved, duplicated and reproduced in any form without the written permission of the editor/publisher.

DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this book has been published by Parab Publications and has been obtained by the editors from sources believed to be reliable and correct to the best of their knowledge. The authors are solely responsible for the contents of the articles compiled in this book. Responsibility of authenticity of the work or the concepts/views presented by the author through this book shall lie with the author and the publisher has no role or claim or any responsibility in this regard. Errors, if any, are purely unintentional and readers are requested to communicate such error to the author to avoid discrepancies in future.

Published by:
Parab Publications

Preface

The twenty-first century has witnessed profound transformations in the ways gender is represented, negotiated, and contested across literature, media, and popular culture. In a world increasingly shaped by digital communication, globalization, identity politics, and social movements, gender narratives are no longer confined to traditional binaries or inherited cultural frameworks. Instead, they are continually being reclaimed, rewritten, and reimaged by voices that were once marginalized, silenced, or excluded from mainstream discourse. It is within this evolving intellectual and cultural landscape that *Reclaiming Gendered Narratives: Representation, Identity, and Cultural Politics in Literature and Media* seeks to situate itself.

This volume emerges from the recognition that literature and media are not merely passive reflections of society; they are active sites where meanings are produced, identities are negotiated, and power relations are challenged. From classical literary texts to contemporary digital platforms, narratives surrounding gender have historically shaped social norms, reinforced stereotypes, and influenced collective consciousness. At the same time, literature and media have also served as powerful instruments of resistance, enabling individuals and communities to articulate alternative identities, challenge hegemonic structures, and reclaim agency over representation.

The chapters included in this book engage critically with diverse themes such as feminism, masculinity, queer identities, intersectionality, body politics, representation in cinema and digital media, postcolonial gender discourse, and the politics of cultural production. Together, they explore how gendered experiences are constructed and contested within varying socio-cultural, historical, and ideological contexts. The contributors examine the intersections of gender with class, caste, race, ethnicity, religion, and technology, thereby emphasizing that identity is never singular or static but deeply layered and dynamic.

One of the central concerns of this volume is the politics of representation. Who gets represented? How are identities framed? Whose voices are amplified, and whose are erased? These questions remain critically relevant in an era where media industries and literary institutions continue to influence public imagination on a global scale.

The essays in this collection demonstrate that reclaiming gendered narratives is not simply an academic exercise; it is also a cultural and political act that challenges structures of exclusion and opens possibilities for more inclusive and equitable forms of storytelling.

The book also recognizes the transformative impact of digital culture and new media technologies. Social media platforms, streaming services, online activism, and participatory cultures have reshaped the production and circulation of gender narratives in unprecedented ways. While these developments have created new spaces for visibility, solidarity, and resistance, they have also intensified debates around surveillance, commodification, performativity, and online violence. By engaging with these complexities, the volume attempts to bridge traditional literary criticism with emerging media and cultural studies perspectives.

This collection brings together scholars, researchers, and thinkers from interdisciplinary backgrounds whose contributions enrich contemporary debates on gender and representation. The diversity of perspectives represented here reflects the evolving nature of gender studies itself—an academic field that continues to expand beyond rigid disciplinary boundaries and toward more inclusive, critical, and dialogic approaches.

We hope that this book will serve not only as a scholarly resource for students, researchers, and academics, but also as a meaningful contribution to broader conversations on identity, justice, and cultural transformation. At a time when questions of gender continue to provoke social, political, and ideological debates across the world, reclaiming narratives becomes essential for fostering empathy, critical reflection, and democratic dialogue.

We express our sincere gratitude to all contributors for their intellectual engagement and dedication to this volume. We also acknowledge the support of colleagues, reviewers, and institutions whose encouragement made this work possible. Finally, we dedicate this book to all those voices that continue to challenge silence, resist marginalization, and reimagine the possibilities of representation and identity in literature and media.

We hope that the discussions presented in this volume inspire further inquiry, dialogue, and critical engagement in the ongoing pursuit of gender equity and cultural understanding.

Acknowledgement

The completion of this edited volume, *Reclaiming Gendered Narratives: Representation, Identity, and Cultural Politics in Literature and Media in India*, has been made possible through the support, encouragement, and intellectual contributions of numerous individuals and institutions. We express our sincere gratitude to all those who directly and indirectly contributed to the successful accomplishment of this academic endeavor.

We are deeply indebted to the contributors to this volume whose scholarly insights, research commitment, and academic rigor have enriched the quality and relevance of the discussions presented in this book. Their interdisciplinary perspectives and critical analyses have significantly strengthened the intellectual foundation of the volume.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Directorate of Higher Education for its continuous encouragement and support in promoting research, innovation, and scholarly engagement in higher education. We sincerely acknowledge the support extended to the Two-Day National Seminar entitled “Gender Equality in the 21st Century: Intersections of Rights, Representation, and Resilience”, organized by the Department of Sociology, Sri Aurobindo General Degree College (English Medium), under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) – Governance, Innovation, Equity, and Inclusion (GIEI).

We convey our sincere appreciation to fellow academicians, researchers, reviewers, and colleagues for their constructive suggestions, critical observations, and continuous encouragement throughout the preparation of this work. Their guidance and scholarly inputs greatly contributed to improving the conceptual and analytical dimensions of the manuscript.

We also acknowledge the support provided by our respective institutions, libraries, research centers, and academic communities, which facilitated access to relevant literature, databases, and research resources necessary for the completion of this volume.

We are sincerely thankful to our family members, friends, and well-wishers for their patience, understanding, and moral support throughout this academic journey. Their encouragement and motivation played a vital role in the successful completion of this work.

Finally, we express our gratitude to the publisher and editorial team for their cooperation, professional assistance, and valuable support in bringing this volume to publication. We hope that this book will contribute meaningfully to contemporary academic discourse, policy discussions, and future research on gender, identity, representation, and social transformation in India.

Dr. H. Theresa Darlong
Dr. Dipankar Chakrabarti

Table of Contents

Title of Chapters	Page No.
RECLAIMING NARRATIVE AUTHORITY: WOMEN'S VOICES, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND RESISTANCE IN CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL LITERATURE	1 – 10
<i>Mr. Anirban Sen and Dr. Uttam Kumar Das</i>	
RECLAIMING SILENCED VOICES: GENDERED AUTHORSHIP, NARRATIVE AGENCY, AND TRAUMA REPRESENTATION IN LOLITA AND MY DARK VANESSA	11 – 16
<i>Bhaskar Jyoti Bora</i>	
REVISITING WOMEN IN THE EPICS: AGENCY, DHARMA, AND GENDERED POWER IN THE RAMAYANA AND MAHABHARATA	17 – 23
<i>Dr. Vidya Piyush Verma and Lieut. Dr. Yogita Verma</i>	
REFRAMING GENDER IN INDIAN CINEMA: REPRESENTATION, RESISTANCE, AND SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION ACROSS ERAS	24 – 32
<i>Mary Perme</i>	
DISCURSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER: POWER, REPRESENTATION, AND IDENTITY POLITICS IN LITERARY AND MEDIA NARRATIVES	33 – 49
<i>Dr. Jainendra Kumar Verma</i>	
VISUALIZING GENDER ACROSS GENRES: A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF MALE AND FEMALE PROTAGONISTS IN HINDI CINEMA POSTERS (2000–2025)	50 – 70
<i>Pallawi Narayan and Dr. Mahesh Kumar Mishra</i>	

TRADITIONAL EXPECTATIONS VS MODERN ROLES: A CASE STUDY OF WORKING MOTHERS' WORK-FAMILY BALANCE CHALLENGES IN AGARTALA	71 – 78
<i>Dr. Sharmistha Chakraborty, Ms. Sara Debbarma and Ms. Sentienla</i>	
ROLE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES IN RURAL HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AND REDUCING OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURE: A CASE STUDY OF BARAMULLA DISTRICT	79 – 98
<i>Dr. Irshad Ahmad Para, Dr. Tosib Alam and Ajaz Ahmad Parray</i>	
FROM MARGINALITY TO AGENCY: SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND INTEGRATION CHALLENGES OF MEITEI-PANGAL MIGRANT WOMEN IN IMPHAL	99 – 107
<i>Dr. Yusuf Khan</i>	
GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF MIGRATION FROM NORTHEAST INDIA: POLICY GAPS AND LABOUR VULNERABILITIES IN URBAN INDIA	108 – 115
<i>Dr. WS Machutmi</i>	
THE DOUBLE BURDEN OF DISPLACEMENT: GENDERED VULNERABILITY, RIGHTS-AVERSION, AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES AMONG WOMEN IN WEST BENGAL	116 – 124
<i>Md Ishrat Jahan</i>	
FROM VEDIC ASSEMBLIES TO PANCHAYATI RAJ: HISTORICAL CONTINUITY AND TRANSFORMATION OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN INDIAN GOVERNANCE	125 – 134
<i>Dr. Ratnabali Ray Sengupta and Smt. Ruma Chowdhury</i>	

**UNVEILING AN UNRECOGNIZED LEGACY:
GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND
SOCIAL REFORM IN MANIPUR THROUGH THE LIFE
OF RAJ KUMARI MUKHARA DEVI** 135 – 142

Dr. Rakeshori Wangkhem

**CONTESTED ARCHETYPES: GENDER
REPRESENTATION IN INDIAN LITERATURE AND
MEDIA: A THEORETICAL AND CULTURAL
ANALYSIS** 143 – 159

Kamal Krishna

ABOUT THE EDITORS



Dr. H. Theresa Darlong is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Sri Aurobindo General Degree College, Government of Tripura, Agartala. With a deep commitment to research and education, Dr. Darlong's academic focus includes the Sociology of Tribes, Cultural Studies, Ethnicity, and Sociology of North East India. She holds a Ph.D. from the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and an M.Phil. from the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. Dr Darlong research interest in Sociology of Tribes, Sociology of Cultural Studies and Identity , Sociology of Ethnicity, Sociology of North East India

Dr. Darlong researches indigenous peoples, gender, culture, and tribal sociology.. Her research looks at the traditions of indigenous people, their cultural history, the roles of women in tribal groups' social and economic life, customary institutions, and social development. She has written research papers, book chapters, and conference papers on topics like minorities studies ,indigenous knowledge systems, gender studies Dr. Darlong is working hard to record and promote the preservation of tribal heritage through academic research and community-based projects.



Dr. Dipankar Chakrabarti received his education at MBB College, Agartala and later at Tripura University (Topper and Medalist). He had been awarded the academic degree of Ph.D. in the year 2006 and D.Litt. in 2018. He took to teaching at the age of twenty four and had been a teacher in several Government Degree Colleges and Universities in Tripura. Dr. Chakrabarti is associated with many academic bodies and has contributed a score of papers in the prestigious books and journals. Currently he is supervising three MRPs. Dr. Chakrabarti is actively engaged in research and writing and has authored/edited more than a dozen of books. Dr. Chakrabarti is a recipient of many national level honors.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Reclaiming Gendered Narratives: Representation, Identity and Cultural Politics in Literature and Media is a critical exploration of how gender is constructed, represented, challenged, and reimagined across literary and media texts. Bringing together diverse theoretical perspectives and contemporary debates, the book examines the intersections of gender, identity, culture, power, and representation in both traditional and emerging forms of storytelling.

The volume investigates the ways in which literature, cinema, digital media, and popular culture shape public understanding of gendered experiences while also providing spaces for resistance, empowerment, and social transformation. Through interdisciplinary analyses, it highlights issues of identity formation, marginalization, cultural politics, feminism, and the evolving dynamics of representation in a rapidly changing global context.

Designed for scholars, researchers, students, and media practitioners, this book contributes to ongoing discussions on gender justice, inclusivity, and cultural expression, offering valuable insights into the role of narratives in shaping social realities and collective consciousness.



India | UAE | Nigeria | Malaysia | Montenegro | Iraq | Egypt | Thailand | Uganda | Philippines | Indonesia

Parab Publications || www.parabpublications.com || info@parabpublications.com