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#### **Abstract**

This research seeks to look at how Kashmiri folklore plays a significant role in educating and maintaining conformity to deep-laid elements of Kashmiri society. The objective being that Kashmiri folklore, rich in content and historiography, is not only an indispensable cultural resource to transmit traditions for centuries but also appears to be an ordinary discourse and narrative of discontent that has been overlooked within the domain of Kashmiri folklore studies. In the process, the study uncovers that Kashmiri folklore is a cardinal element for understanding people's discontent primarily through folk narratives and anecdotes in the select Kashmiri folklore. The chapters are arranged to look at the problematics of conceptualizing 'folklore' in the Indian (Kashmiri) context, followed by an understanding of various articulations and patterns of discontent in the select Kashmiri folklore.

Kashmir's longstanding subjugated historical and political situation, owing to continual foreign intrusions, has driven Kashmiris to articulate their feelings of discontent and resentment in/through folklore narratives in tones of either woeful lamentation or fuming intensity. The notion of discontent is, however, looked at from the perspective of hidden resistance but the orientation is directed at an encounter with cultural domination, social injustice, political exclusion, and economic exploitation through folklore poetics and symbolic language. The creative potential for discontent within the language of folklore is not only seen as an exercise for emancipation but, also an alternate means of subdued subversion to change the status quo throughout the history of Kashmir. This research attempts to study Kashmiri folklore as a powerful narrative and voice of discontent deeply rooted in the historical imagination of the people.