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Topic of Research: **Memory, Body Politics and Identity: A Study of Select Dalit Women's Life Writings**

Findings

The thesis attempts to examine the life writings written by Dalit women that are available in English, whether originally penned in English or translated into it. The focus on autobiographies in English is essential because it provides a gateway for these narratives to reach a broader global audience. Availability of autobiographies in English can increase their reach to the scholars, activists, and individuals who are interested in understanding the intersectional experiences of Dalit women. The thesis tried to explore the diverse and often marginalized voices of Dalit women to offer insights into their struggles, resilience, and aspirations. This exploration is significant because it acknowledges the historical and systemic barriers that have limited Dalit women's access to literacy and education, which in turn constrained their ability to record and share their stories until recent decades. By locating and analysing these autobiographies, the thesis seeks to highlight their role in documenting personal and collective histories, challenging dominant narratives, and contributing to ongoing discussions on identity, social justice, and representation. Central to this thesis is an exploration of how memory, body politics, and identity intersect within Dalit women's life writings.

These autobiographical narratives serve as potent tool through which Dalit women reclaim agency and visibility in the face of historical marginalization. Memory plays a pivotal role as these narratives vividly recount personal and collective histories, challenging dominant narratives that have marginalized Dalit communities. Simultaneously, Dalit women's writings expose how caste and gender intersect to regulate and oppress their physical selves. By articulating embodied experiences of discrimination and resilience, these narratives defy monolithic categorizations imposed by societal norms, offering nuanced portrayals of Dalit women's agency and resistance. Dalit women, through their writing, assert their individualities and question preconceived notions regarding Dalits.