

## Introduction

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The narratives of South Asian Women writers, like their lived experiences have always been significantly different from their sisters from the Western part of the world. To etch a mark in the world literature domain, South Asian women writers have braved decades and this issue commemorates their relentless and feisty journey in continuum. The personal and social histories of the women in South Asia have recognised violence as an intrinsic part of their lives and indeed they have formulated their resistance in multiple ways. Over the centuries, women have dealt with violence in various ways.

In select works of fiction written by female South Asian authors, issues of violence inflicted upon women by the means of religion have been prominently addressed, even in the face of worldwide scathing disapproval and life threats. Women's struggles in domestic front as well as in the outer world have eventually surfaced through different means of expression. To understand the latent politics of South Asian women's fiction, one must primarily learn to acknowledge and accept the uniqueness of its representation just like the predominantly different experiences that those women go through even today.

It is a valid truth that women, even today have to constantly strive to earn their place in the larger world. Their narratives do contribute to their movement to a large extent making their voices echo in multiple spheres of the society. Women's narratives have been crucial in the formation of the idea that women's experiences as well as their defiance are largely different. In spite of the fact that all the authors whose works have been addressed in this issue share their gender identity, the variety of their experiences and narrative compels the reader to accept the fact plurality is indeed the face of cultural history and how women's narratives must be regarded for their profound contribution in its re-manifestation. Literature has always emerged as sites of resistance and from women's autobiographies to memoirs, letters or works of fiction, their wide range of literary outpouring apart from suggesting their brilliance, has also reminded us of all the patriarchal instruments that they had to battle to form a separate canon of South Asian Women's writings. Their challenges were many for they not only held the marginal position in terms of their gender but their race and ethnicity along with their socio-economic condition were equally problematic.

This issue commemorates all those South Asian Women writers who have foregrounded their steady faith in the forming of a liberated and egalitarian space for the voices of women where they are by no means oppressed by the dictums of patriarchal hegemony. Here an earnest effort has been made to accommodate essays composed by different authors who have individually tried to put forward their recognition and defence of South Asian women's narratives and also presented their respective readings of select texts that have been of great importance in shaping an alternative history, strongly countering the tropes of anthropocentrism. This issue needs to be read as a collective celebration of the voices of South Asian Women whose contribution to the body of female art and aesthetics is boundless.