

Deconstructing Patriarchy- A Reading of Krishna Sobti's Mitro Marjani/To Hell with You Mitro

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Abstract

Literature and cinema have been creatively used as pedagogical tools for exploring complexities bringing greater clarity to the understanding of ideas, philosophies and concepts. Literature reflects the society in which it is situated and lends to a deeper understanding of it. It presents human dynamics and the resultant emotional interplay within a societal setting. This lends to infinite possibilities of interpretation of complex human behaviour and the psycho social pressures that are inherent in a social setting.

As a socially constructed system, patriarchy, has impacted human life and social organisation tremendously. Patriarchy affects the social fabric in maintaining the supremacy of the men in society and its related spheres - in the rigidly defined gender roles, the division of household tasks, in family dynamics and expected role behaviour are manifestations of this social system. Efforts to understand complex social systems can be a daunting task. A critical reading and appreciation of literature can become an effective means of developing insights and constructing understanding of this system and the human emotions that are inextricably linked with it. In this paper an attempt will be made to deconstruct the meaning of patriarchy through a reading of Sobti's Mitro Marjani.

Keywords: *Patriarchy, Family, Gender Roles*

Patriarchy and its ramifications in Indian society are so firmly ingrained that we cannot think of India without acknowledging its deep-rooted patriarchal underpinnings. Challenging patriarchy is an ongoing process, but it will take many more generations to completely obliterate or metamorphose it. There are myriad of ways in which we as individuals can push back against the system of patriarchy. Studying and analysing it through creative representations is one