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## **Social Realism: Representation of Child Labour in Mridula Garg's *The Magic Carpet***

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### **Abstract**

India is a major exporter in many areas as silk and cotton materials. But most of the labourers who produce such products are children and are working illegally. India has passed many laws to try to make it illegal to employ children under the age of fourteen, but the economic standing makes that difficult. Many Non-Government Organisations have been working towards removing all children from illegal working conditions and getting them into schools. The rationale at the core of this paper is to bring out how Mridula Garg's play *Jadu Ka Kaaleen* (1993) dwells on the social issues of child labour, exploitation and poverty. The paper presents the pitiful condition of the helpless children, equally helpless parents, hard-hearted but helpless supervisors, the corrupt carpet-factory owner and the labour officer. But Garg's play shows that there is a way out of the misery, if one courageously fights to emerge victorious.

### **Keywords**

Carpet factory, jungle/forest, drought, road construction, social worker, procurers, commission.

## **The Other Side of Her Story: Panchaali in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *The Palace of Illusions***

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### **Abstract**

Myths often contain gaps and silences. This forces writers and scholars to confront and question them through their works. Women writers, as part of the revisionist strategy, introduce a mode of seeing unknown to the male oriented texts. This paper attempts to study contemporary woman writer's response to traditional texts as portrayed in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *The Palace of Illusions*. Divakaruni depicts those experiences which went unrecorded and highlights the need to envision a new world order which will ensure women their rightful place. She attempts to bring the spotlight on Panchaali in *The Mahabharata* and presents the epic through her eyes. This paper provides a brief introduction to the study of myths and revisionist criticism. This is followed by an analysis of the life and thoughts of the mythical heroine Panchaali as portrayed by Divakaruni. The novel offers new perspectives on the mythical character and addresses the gaps in the traditional narratives.

## Discovering a Metaphorical Life in David Mamet's *A Life in the Theatre*

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### **Abstract**

Like all literary and artistic genres, drama is in a constant state of flux, working to show human actions in the cultural milieu of its origin in particular and also making an attempt to present perspectives on truth in a simple manner so that people can digest that truth. The platform moves ahead with the thoughts and ideas of the dramatist and the audience. Drama gains its power in their lives as it uncovers the stories of their life through which they shape themselves and assess one another. *A Life in the Theatre* (1977) takes us into the lives of two actors: one young and rising into the first full flush of his success, whereas the older actor is anxious and beginning to wane. This play is about theatre, but the play accepts the idea of the theatre as a metaphor for the social and moral world which is beyond its walls.

### **Keywords**

Drama, truth, life, metaphor, world.

## Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*: A Narrative of Diaspora

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### **Abstract**

Jhumpa Lahiri's fiction focuses on the quest for identity. Her characters are subjected to the status of transnational migrants. She emphasises their traumatic attempt to negotiate the borders and fringes of an alien society in various ways to establish their identity in adopted land. She offers new insight into immigrants' experience in her tales. Physical and geographical displacement from the native place also raises socio-cultural and psychosomatic identity questions. Cultural cross-currents lead to a hybrid culture and a new process of cultural assimilation. A heterogeneous cultural milieu emerges which initiates the possibility of conversation and dialogue in contemporary cosmopolitan society. As a result, diasporic reciprocation has become one of the recurrent themes in post-colonial world literature. Lahiri projects the possibility of constant cultural negotiation and represents cultural hybrids born out of fluid immigrant identity in her text *The Namesake*. This paper highlights the process of cultural assimilation and offers a fresh model of national identity in the present world where psychological borders are always shifting

### **Keywords**

Culture, dislocation, assimilation, diaspora, immigrant, identity, quest.

## **Problematising the “Paradox” in the “Popular”: Reading M and B Novels**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is an enquiry into the way in which certain paradoxes are perceived as existing in a century old tradition of the women’s popular Romantic fiction popularly known as M and B novels. This genre of the popular fiction began in the wake of women’s entry into education and social sphere and had its focus both on the employed and the leisured classes of women. For the employed, it provided the necessary relaxation after work, while for those home makers it was a refreshing past time. An effort is made here to examine certain inherent paradoxes in this genre by which this favourite brand of woman’s fiction conceals in its intricate folds most blatant misogynistic messages. It is a total reversal of the ideals and ethos of feminism both as a theory and as a practice. In spite of this self-cancelling ideology within, it is generally considered as a choice time pass fiction by women. The paper, taking the examples of certain popular romantic novels whose consumers, propagators and producers are mostly women, will try to go into certain commonly perceived and followed conventions of M and B novels and also will examine how they subvert the feminist notions and cater to the machinations of patriarchy.

### **Keywords**

Popular romantic fiction, subversion, patriarchy.

# **Kiswahili as an Official Language in Kenya: Its Past, Present and Future Roles and Challenges**

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## **Abstract**

After several decades of debates and experiments, Kenya finally promulgated its current constitution on 27 August 2010. Among the new aspects in the constitution is the one that deals with both the national and official languages. Kiswahili was designated as the only national language while sharing the role of an official language with English. This article discusses the meaning and role of official languages, and how Kiswahili should undertake those roles in the context of Kenya's current constitution. The thesis of this paper is that the declaration of Kiswahili as an official language will not yield much unless important steps and specific policies are formulated. It is against this backdrop that this paper examines the steps that must be undertaken and the policies that should be formulated or amended in order to implement this aspect of the constitution. It does this by focusing on particular sections of society that include education, politics/parliament, economy, culture and media amongst others. The paper also examines the challenges that are likely to confront Kiswahili in its new status. Finally, it recommends ways in which such challenges may be tackled to enable Kiswahili play its role as an official language in Kenya.

## **Keywords**

Kiswahili, official language, Kenya, constitution, language policy, national language.



## **The Relationship among Scientific Creativity, Scientific Reasoning and Study Involvement of Students at Secondary Level**

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### **Abstract**

Assessing creativity is always a difficult task, as it includes open ended questions allowing several correct responses. Scientific creativity and scientific reasoning are the two important skills that science teaching should develop in students. Are students who are highly creative in science, good at reasoning? Do they show more involvement in their studies? Here, an attempt is made to measure the scientific creativity, scientific reasoning and study involvement of students, and to find if there exists any relationship between them. A scientific creativity test was developed by the investigator to measure scientific creativity. Standardised tools were used to measure scientific reasoning and study involvement. A study was conducted among 300 secondary students in Kerala. Results showed that a significant relationship between scientific creativity and scientific reasoning was exhibited for the total sample and sub samples. So teachers should have a clear notion of creativity in science and the ways to foster them. Above all, students should be trained to use their creativity for the goodwill of mankind.

### **Keywords**

Scientific creativity, scientific reasoning, study involvement, fluency, flexibility, originality.

## Women and Media

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### **Abstract**

The paper includes comparisons regarding gender displays, random examples of print and advertisements, the gender behaviour portrayed, feminism, ritualisation of woman in subordination, and stereotypical portrayal of women. It is a high time for Media Literacy, which can bring an awakening in a man to analyse his own capacity to critically appreciate and differentiate between right and wrong. Media should realise its responsibility towards society's ills and evils like torture on women and they being taken as sex objects, usually sidelined and taken as subordinates to men. Their decision making power is still considered doubtful. There is diversified coverage of women in progressive talk shows and discussions, but in contradiction, there is still the typical representation of woman in conservative, sari clad, ritualistic and submissive personification in television soaps. In fact this depiction as a subservient woman and sacrificial lamb is being acknowledged as a pro-social implication rather than an anti-social one. Today's women are liberating themselves from the shackles of "man's world" and are establishing their own identity.

### **Keywords**

Women in media, media literacy, characterisation of woman, patriarchal stereotyping, Indian entertainment industry.

# **SGSY: An Action Oriented Mechanism to Rural Development**

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## **Abstract**

The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is the major on-going programme for the self-employment of rural poor through the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs). It is a Bank Linkage Programme, a cost effective mechanism that provides financial services to the “Unreached Poor” which has been successful not only in meeting financial needs of the rural poor but also strengthen collective self help capacities of the poor, leading to their development. Rapid progress in SHG formation has now turned into a revolutionary approach to development movement among people in the rural scenario. Economic development through credit lending results in people’s ability to influence or make decision, increased self confidence, better status and role in the community. This paper puts forward how SHG under SGSY makes an extensive recognition as a strategy for rural development with respect to poverty alleviation and socioeconomic empowerment of poor people.

## **Keywords**

SGSY, SHG, microcredit, poverty, self-employment, development.

# The Women Component Plan: An Evaluative Study with Reference to Omalloor Panchayath

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## **Abstract**

The term decentralisation refers to a process of assigning the public functions and responsibilities of planning and implementation from central government to sub district level in order to carry out specific tasks at the local level. As a meaningful march towards participatory democracy, the decentralisation process in Kerala was launched in August 1996 with the introduction of people's plan campaign. The People's Planning Programme for the 9th plan was introduced as means to overcome the problems of Kerala's development crisis. The campaign was an attempt to conceptualise, operationalise and institutionalise a system of multilevel, people centred planning process suitable to the regional specification of Kerala. Gender dimensions aiming at better quality of life of women was also given due importance in the campaign. One of the major recommendations in people's plan campaign is women component plan (WCP). This paper is a situation analysis of WCP with special reference to Omalloor Grama Panchayat in Pathanamthitta District, Kerala.

## **Keywords**

Decentralisation, women component plan, people's plan, grama sabha, development, beneficiaries, subsidy.

## **Women of India: Social Exclusion Perspective**

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### **Abstract**

Social exclusion, discrimination, and identity formation have become central focus of discourses in India today. Social exclusion and discrimination refer to the process and outcome of keeping a social group outside the power centres and resources. Identity formation on the one hand refers to the process and the effect of articulating this social alienation, and on the other hand reformulating one's social characteristics and consequently self-determination. As long as those individuals and social groups who are subject to exclusion remain silent, there is no conflict. But the moment they articulate their exclusion and demand their constitutional and human rights, those who had subjected them to exclusion unleash a reign of terror on them.

### **Keywords**

Social exclusion, inclusion, marginalisation, gender discrimination, capability.

# Women Activating Changes in Tourism Industry Management

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## **Abstract**

Tourism industry is a major employer of women globally, but it cannot be said unequivocally that the industry treats women in a just and equitable manner. Women can have greater access, control and ownership over tourism resources as well as receive benefits from tourism industry. It has not happened yet, but it will. Women at present are realising their worth in the industry as customer and are placing demands to make it women-friendly. The hospitality industry is gearing up reforms to receive more number of women tourists. At the same time women are activating changes within the industry as leaders, managers, entrepreneurs and employers. The article elaborates on the ways tourism industry affects women and vice versa. It also focuses on the role of women as tourists and change makers.

## **Keywords**

Women and tourism, New age travellers, equitable tourism, tourism entrepreneurs.

## **Women Entrepreneurship: A Venture for Self-Employment in Alappuzha**

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### **Abstract**

Women in this era are flourishing as designers, interior decorators, exporters, publishers, CEOs, beauticians, garment manufacturers, and have come up with a strong desire to do something different and contribute towards the society as well as family. They are still exploring new avenues of economic participation and are prepared to take it as a challenge. This paper explores the recent growth of women entrepreneurs in Alappuzha district of Kerala State.

### **Keywords**

Entrepreneurship, women entrepreneurship, self-employment, marital status.

# Weekend and Day of the Week Effect in the Indian Stock Market: An Empirical Study

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## Abstract

According to the Efficient Market Hypothesis, the stock prices follow the Random Walk principle. That means neither fundamental analysts nor technical analysts can predict the future stock prices with accuracy. In contrast, many researchers have proved that there is presence of seasonality effect in the stock market such as January effect, Holiday effect, Day of the week effect and Weekend effect, to name a few. This paper attempts to probe into the existence of “Day of the Week Effect” and “Weekend Effect” on the Indian stock market before recession, during recession and after recession.

## Keywords

Anomaly, day-of-the week, seasonality, stock returns, weekend effect.