

# संशोधक

● वर्ष : ९१ ● मार्च २०२३ ● पुरवणी अंक ६



इतिहासकार्य वि. का.राजवाडे संशोधन मंडळ, धुळे





UGC CARE LISTED  
ISSN No. 2394-5990

इतिहासाचार्य वि. का. राजवाडे मंडळ, धुळे  
या संस्थेचे त्रैमासिक  
॥ संशोधक ॥

पुरवणी अंक ६ - मार्च २०२३ (त्रैमासिक)

- शके १९४४
- वर्ष : ९०
- पुरवणी अंक : ६

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कार्याध्यक्ष, इ. वि. का. राजवाडे संशोधन मंडळ, धुळे ४२४००९  
दूरध्वनी (०२५६२) २३३८४८, ९४२२२८९४७९, ९४०४५७७०२०

कार्यालयीन वेळ

सकाळी ९.३० ते १.००, सायंकाळी ४.३० ते ८.०० (रविवारी सुट्टी)

मूल्य रु. १००/-

वार्षिक वर्गणी रु. ५००/-, आजीव वर्गणी रु. ५०००/- (१४ वर्षे)

विशेष सूचना : संशोधक त्रैमासिकाची वर्गणी चेक/ड्राफ्टने  
'संशोधक त्रैमासिक राजवाडे मंडळ, धुळे' या नावाने पाठवावी.

अक्षरजुळणी : सौ. सीमा शिंदे, वारजे-माळवाडी, पुणे ५८.

महाराष्ट्र राज्य साहित्य आणि संस्कृती मंडळाने या नियतकालिकेच्या प्रकाशनार्थ अनुदान दिले आहे. या नियतकालिकेतील लेखकांच्या विचारांशी मंडळ व शासन सहमत असेलच असे नाही.

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# Gender and Narrative

**Dr. Amrita Singh**

Assistant Professor, Department of English  
Don Bosco College,  
Kohima (Nagaland)

The notion of gender and narrative is closely intertwined. Gender is a cultural construct that assigns identity to the people born with specific sex and is an outcome of the individual's interaction with the society. Narrative, on the other hand, is the art of narrating stories, however the term carries deeper meanings as narrator cannot be separated from the art he produces. This implies that the culture and society which a narrator is a part of is reflected largely in his/her art. A range of stylistic patterns can be observed in the manner in which a narrative is formulated. The differentiation is an outcome not of the anatomy (sex) but the cultural conditioning of the narrator. It is important to realize that sex is biologically acquired and gender is the stereotypical identity that is associated to it. Indian patriarchal society expects members belonging to different sex to speak, behave, and conduct themselves in a socially "correct" manner.

Our society expects men to be the bread earners and women to be the nurtures. Politeness, humility, tenderness, passivity are the feminine traits however strength, aggressiveness, and assertiveness is considered to be masculine traits. If either of the sexes do not confirm to society's pre-conceived notions they are quickly termed otherwise. Robert Stoller in his book *Sex and Gender* suggests that

[W]hile sex and gender seem to common sense to be practically synonymous and in everyday life to be inextricably bound together ...the fact is that the two realms (sex and gender)

are not at all inextricably bound in anything like a one to one relationship, but each may go in its quiet independent way.

The natural biological traits with which an individual is born determines the sex of an individual however gender is a cultural construct that attaches certain behavioral identities to the members of a particular sex. Sex is established with respect to the visual criteria (breasts or beards, clitoris or penis) and gender roles are no way natural to the sexes but are something stereotypically attached to them. Butler states, "gender is neither the casual result of sex or not as seemingly fixed as sex".

The narrative patterns of male and female writers/speakers might present polarity in the way reality is perceived and represented. Since men and women go through different kinds of biological and cultural experiences their manner of contextualizing and analyzing is also different. Women are more affective whereas men are instrumental in their use of words. Within the confines of the dominant language female narrative are concerned with reliance, security and collaborative roles however men are always depicted as confronters and warriors. If we pick the scriptures of the religions prevailing in India we can see that how women are always projected as being the sole reason for treachery and war. May it be Mata Sita or Draupadi in Hindu mythology, or Eve as per the Christian Testament women are depicted as the reason for bringing ill fortune. Critics argue that this biased representation could be accounted to the fact that



UGC CARE LISTED  
ISSN No. 2394-5990

Ithishacharya Vs. why A quarterly of the  
Rajwade Mandal, Dhule

## || Researcher.

Supplementary Issue 6 March 2023 (Quarterly)

• May 1944 • Year 90 • Supplementary Issue

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### office hours

9.30 AM to 1.00 PM, 4.30 PM to 8.00 PM (Sunday Holiday)

Price Rs. 100/-

Annual subscription Rs. 500/-, Lifetime Subscription Rs. 5000/- (14 years)

Special Notice Researcher Quarterly subscription by cheque/draft

To be sent under the name 'Researchers' Quarterly Rajwade Mandal, Dhule'

Ms. Seema Shintre, Warje Malwadi, Pune 58.

Maharashtra State Board of Literature and Culture has given grant for publication of this magazine. The Board and the Government do not necessarily agree with the views of the authors of this magazine.