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## **Folk Songs of Bemba Women and their Religious Aspect**

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### **Abstract**

Folk songs are powerful repositories of myth, religious worldview, and history. It is through them that many details of past forms of religion and society have come to us. The Bemba are the largest ethnic group in the Northern Province of Zambia. Among the Bemba, like many people, religion is traditionally very much the sphere of the women. Traditionally the Bemba speaking peoples adhered to House Religion where married woman was in charge of all domestic ritual and had access to the Divine through the intercession of her forebears. Moreover, the knowledge of the community's religious heritage plus the guidelines for worshipping the Transcendent were passed on by the women during the ceremonies of Initiation. The existential East-West orientation of the Bemba is similar to Hindu east-west orientation found in folk songs. This paper will deal with the folk songs of different stages. The paper will discuss the religious aspect of early folk songs of Bemba women at first, next after the arrival of missionaries in Zambia and at last songs belonging to the period 1950-56. All Bemba folk songs are translated by Hinfelaar.

### **Keywords**

Bemba, folk-songs, religious aspect, women, east, west.

## **Self-Worth and Society Acceptance: Hegemony of White Popular Culture in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye***

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### **Abstract**

Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature, is a distinguished contemporary African-American novelist. She has penned six novels. Her very first novel *The Bluest Eye* is included in the Norton Anthology of Women's Literature. Her novels predict the oppression and pain of Black community living in America, and attempt to promote Black culture. The present paper while building on existing criticism tries to explore the role of popular culture in establishing certain physical features as ideal beauty features and their psychological response on the individual. These commercial products, for instance items like cups, dolls, candies and movies, play a pivotal role in establishing beauty aesthetics. Regular exposure to these commercialised ideals results in their idealisation and a longing in people to have these defining physical features of beauty. It creates an environment of superiority and inferiority. People who possess the defining features are considered superior to those who do not have these physical features. This adversely affects their psyche and becomes a reason for their downfall. The present paper foregrounds how simple things like cup images or candy wrappers can be a strong factor in influencing an individual's psychological response to beauty and his/her own self-importance.

### **Keywords**

White, black, self-worth, racism, popular culture, beauty, society, wasted, screen, psyche.

**From Dwelling to the Stage: A Mythical Re-reading of  
Traditional Femininity through the Icon of  
Postmodernism in Githa Hariharan's  
*Thousand Faces of Night* and *When Dreams Travel***

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**Abstract**

India's advent towards postmodernism gives way to channelise women's life between tradition and modernity. The traditional concept and the myth about chastity and the ritualistic role of woman as goddess keep them always in chains. In order to liberate, they re-read themselves, remove the hinders, and come out from their dwellings to the stage. Femininity stresses the attributes of women and the history of her economic dependency. Githa Hariharan intertwines the postmodern and feminine perspectives by stressing the different strategies women adopt to assert themselves. Manu speaks of female subordination, while Hariharan restores the old version of mythical women and glorifies strong, rebellious, and above all angry women like Draupadi and Amba from the *Mahabharata*. Hariharan's *The Thousand Faces of Night* and *When Dreams Travel* rewrite history as an act of questioning the hegemony and thereby subverting the manipulated and distorted versions of the privileged class.

**Keywords**

Postmodernism, femininity, attributes, myth, hegemony.

## The “Self” in the Post 9/11 Narratives *Netherland* and *Falling Man*

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### **Abstract**

The human self is a recurring presence in the literary imagination. This paper intends to explore and analyse the aspect of human self as illustrated in the 9/11 narratives *Netherland* and *Falling Man*. It proposes to analyse the multiple dimensions of human self depicted in the narratives in the context of 9/11 attacks. The study also aims to analyse the representation of 9/11 in the two narratives, comparing and contrasting them with each other, through a thematic and character study.

### **Keywords**

Conflict, identity, self, subjectivity, trauma.

## “Travel,” “Displacement,” and “Exile” in Jhumpa Lahiri’s Works

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### **Abstract**

The plots of Jhumpa Lahiri’s works mostly focus on the migrated families in the US. The author closely examines the experiences of displacement and exile by her principal characters. The male protagonists of her novels mostly migrate to the US to pursue higher studies. The female protagonists are forced to migrate along with their husbands through marriage, which is synonymous with “involuntary travel” as well as “voluntary exile” from the country of nativity. All her characters enjoy the aspects of the new country as travellers do and they make an adjustment in their adopted homeland. Therefore, the images of travel, displacement, and exile receive new connotations in Lahiri’s works. The present paper focuses on two of her novels entitled *The Lowland*, *The Namesake*, and two short stories, “A Choice of Accommodation” and “Year’s End,” taken from *Unaccustomed Earth*. In all of them the author deals with the problems of cultural as well as territorial displacement and self-imposed exile.

### **Keywords**

Travel, involuntary travel, voluntary exile, displacement, roots.

## **Resistance to Sexual Assault: A Study on Shashi Deshpande's *The Binding Vine***

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### **Abstract**

The present paper discusses Shashi Deshpande's novel *The Binding Vine* (1992) with respect to the theme of women's effort to trace emotional and physical safety in marriage and outside it by resisting the male approach. The paper studies how Deshpande has intimately expressed two female characters' experience of sexual assault within the institution of marriage and also outside it, and its effect on the victims. Deshpande has at considerable length written about this theme in her other novel *The Dark Holds No Terrors* (1990), and short-stories "Intrusion" (1993) and "It Was Dark" (1993). The paper exhibits how Deshpande seriously views women's rights over their bodies. The significance of the novel is that in a hypocritical society, Deshpande has succeeded in breaking the taboo to about the issues related to female body and their feelings.

### **Keywords**

Marriage, marital relationship, rape, emotional distress, resistance, assertion.



## **Historiographical Trends in the Writing of Urban History**

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### **Abstract**

Urbanisation in India as an academic discipline has drawn the attention of historians since the latter half of the twentieth century. Historians have variously studied the different phases of urbanisation pertaining to ancient, medieval and modern periods. Consequently writings on the subject portray the different approaches and trends of the historians. Interestingly historians have tried to examine the impediments to exploit this field fully to develop urban history as an academic discipline. To break a fresh ground they made attempts to advance an understanding of the urban centres, urbanisation, and socio-economic change through focused works on different periods of history since late 1960s. Varied opinions on the origin, growth, and decay of cities have been considered to explore the studies pursued.

### **Keywords**

Urbanisation, historians, trends, approaches.

Within the framework of social sc

## Quality Assurance through E-learning Tools in School Education

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### **Abstract**

E-learning is a tool which facilitates learning electronically with the help of computer and online resources. It takes place through supporting interactions with content, learning activities, and tools. The main benefit of e-learning is student can learn through engaging himself and participating with discussion, collaboration, and cooperative groups. It may be very important to motivate and engage students for improving educational outcomes. E-learning environment facilitates to make peer and collaborative learning opportunities easier, student-supportive, and learning with cognitive, affective, and social interactions. Therefore the ultimate aims of school teachers should be to introduce new ideas about teaching and learning with ICT tools to support a shift away from teacher-centric approach to a learner-centric approach. The main aim of this paper is an endeavour to know how e-learning tools assure quality education in schools and what types of barriers are marked to successful adaptation of it in the Indian school classroom.

### **Keywords**

ICT tools, e-learning, quality assurance, school education, barriers.

## **Female Morbidity and Gender Equations: A Sociological Analysis of Contemporary Society**

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### **Abstract**

Morbidity is an incidence of ill health or a state of being diseased. While Kerala enjoys enviable indices when it comes to health and human development, the state seems unable to get away from high chronic morbidity rates among its women. Many studies have revealed that Kerala is unique because of women's position in the socio-cultural and political stance. Kerala is the only Indian state with an overall male-female ratio in favour of females. The status of Kerala women were glorified in terms of literacy, maternal mortality, longevity, health, and overall human development indices. But on the other side of her envious growth, in the depth of the scenario, uplift and empowerment are only on the peripheral level. Studies reveal that three-fifth of Kerala female population suffers from illness related to chronic morbidity. Therefore the present study focuses on the social and psychological causes, and consequences of female morbidity.

### **Keywords**

Morbidity, health and wellbeing, incidence and prevalence of disease, sick role, labelling theory.

## **Subordinating Gender Equality to Religious Identity: Understanding the Problems of Muslim Women in India**

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### **Abstract**

The status of women in India varies on the basis of region, religion, class, caste, education etc. But largely India is a traditional, hierarchical, patriarchal, and often misogynistic society where women have a decidedly lower status to men, whichever religion they may practice. They face discrimination and violence inside the home and outside too. Majority of women lack sanitation, health, education, property, resources, and opportunity to take decisions regarding themselves. They face female foeticide, infanticide, abandonment, child marriage, dowry harassment, neglect, dual work, domestic violence, unattended births, molestation, sexual harassment, rape, acid throwing, poverty, honour killing etc. They are unable to demand justice in case of injustice because public spheres are dominated by men who do not see women as equals. Moreover if injustice is done within the family and a woman tries to raise her voice against it, then she is seen as a bad woman who is bent upon destroying the family. In such a scenario if the laws too are not gender neutral, the situation becomes really bad. The Muslim personal law is one such law which legalises gender inequality. It turns Muslim women into second class citizens on issues of marriage, divorce, inheritance etc. It allows Muslim men polygamy in a secular state where monogamy is a rule for all others. It also gives husbands power to divorce their wives unilaterally. Thus the inequality provided in Muslim personal law coupled with secondary position on women in Indian society creates lots of problems for Muslim women in India, but they are forced to subordinate gender equality to religious identity as otherwise they will be seen as traitors by their own community.

### **Keywords**

Muslim, women, gender, identity, inequality, law, India.

## Optical Studies on FePcCl Thin Films

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### Abstract

Phthalocyanines are aromatic hydrocarbons exhibiting semiconducting properties which come under the class of organic semiconductors. During the past one decade, metal substituted phthalocyanines have received remarkable attention due to their potential applications in gas sensing, photovoltaics, and electroluminescence. They are used as high fluorescent materials in laser technology. Phthalocyanines can be used as materials for high-density optical data recording (ODR) due to their excellent chemical stability, low heat conduction, and good optical properties. The major advantages of these organic dyes over metallic materials for ODR applications are their amenability for engineering the molecular structure and feasibility to be cast as thin films. The possibility of introducing different metal atoms provides architectural flexibility to optimise the nonlinear optical (NLO) properties. Metal phthalocyanines are classified as p-type semiconductors having low mobility and low carrier concentration compared to inorganic semiconductors.

### Keywords

Phthalocyanines, semi-conductor, band gap energy, thin film, wavelength, Brillouin zone, valence band, conduction band, absorption spectrum.