

CHALLENGING INJUSTICE – ASSERTION OF SELF IN BABY KAMBLE’S JINA AMUCHA (PRISON WE BROKE)

Kirtikumar Vitthani

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Prof. V B Shah Institute of Management, R V Patel College of Commerce (EM), V L Shah College of Commerce (GM), Sutex Bank College of Computer Application and Science, Amroli, Surat, Gujarat, India

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ABSTRACT

Baby Kamble’s autobiography Jina Amucha translated as “The Prisons We Broke” narrates life long struggle of Mahar community in Maharashtra. She explicitly portrays the deplorable condition of the people of Mahar community, especially women. The book brings out the fact that the social, economic, sexual, religious exploitation of these lower castes existed even after independence. This autobiography moves from the personal sphere to depict the stark social reality which has always been overlooked and avoided. The writer is not an individual but a representative voice challenging the age-old exploitation and injustices meted out to their community generation after generation. This voice is more or less ‘collective consciousness’ of the community. The subjective perceptions of the author objectively present the conditions that have existed in the past and still continue to do so in undercurrents. The study attempts to assess the tools and extent of exclusion of the lower castes and how the people of this caste challenged the injustice meted out to them. The present study also attempts to assess the extent of assimilation of these marginalized castes.

KEYWORDS: *Assertion, Dalit, Exploitation, Recognition, Voice*