

**Interrogating “the misled sun”:
Text, Context and Representation of Dalit Literary Movement in India with
Special reference to Bengal Scenario**

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Abstract

*“you made us churn the ocean
to have amrit for them
and poison for us.” (Neerav Patel)*

Caste politics in India is unique and culture specific. There are curious variations even within the regions. Arjun Dangle defining Dalit literature says: “dalit literature is not simply literature ... (it) is associated with a movement to bring about change ... it (is) strongly evident that there is no established critical theory behind (dalit writings); instead there is a new thinking and a new point of view” (Dangle 1994: vii-viii). When asked, “Who are the Dalits in India?” Bama Faustina Soosairaj replied, “People who are discriminated against and socially excluded on account of their caste and who militantly oppose such a system of discrimination and dehumanization are Dalits. It also includes people who are marginalized based on class and gender” (Interview with Jaydeep Sarangi, Muse India, Issue 42, 2012).

One of the aims of writing Dalit Women’s literature in India has been to reveal to the readers, the stereotypical injustice, oppression, helplessness, struggles and liberation from social slavery of many of the disadvantaged populations under the social machine of stratification. Literary productions by the dalits of Bengal are centuries old.

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