

## Women, Society and Culture in the Plays of Girish Karnad

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### Abstract

Studying Girish Karnad is a difficult and challenging task, since he has been a prolific and impactful in various fields. He is well-known as playwright, director, and actor as well as for the numerous important positions which he has held in the field of Indian culture in general and for the performing arts in particular. The Research work is proposed to present and understand woman's problem and finding solution for those is very relevant and basic with help of the characters in play. This attempt is to analyse the anxiety of women with the Introduction of modernity. The cultural and societal influence on the writer in writing his plays is analysed here in the paper. The work brings the light on Re-Inventing tradition in the plays of Karnad. The work will present a critical study on social and cultural ideologies in the plays of Karnad.

**Keywords:** Myth, Biological, Contemporary, Post-Colonial, And Dramaturgy

### Introduction

Women have traditionally experienced substantial drawbacks as compared to men. Human beings normally fall into two distinct categories based on their sex: men and women. They differ considerably from one another due to the biological nature of sex. In the myth-modern realm of Girish Karnad plays, the study does to establish the objectives and goals, aspirations and wants, obligations and responsibilities, dress styles and habits of behavior, and identities and positions of men and women. The study additionally creates consciousness

about the amount of freedom and responsibility offered to women to move throughout and participate in public events, giving insight into the nature of the social milieu to which they belong. Karnad confronts traditional concerns and traditional obligations in his efforts to release women from patriarchal supremacy. He outlines the role of women in present post-colonial Indian culture with plays such as *Yayati*, *Naga-Mandala*, *Hayavadana*, and *Bali-The Sacrifice*. Karnad establishes an alternate line between factual truth and mythical beings, folkloristic presentation, generating continuity and giving his drama an epic majesty.

Gender impacts in society and patriarchal oppression of women are major themes in Karnad's plays. Karnad's plays indicate the state of a typical Indian female, who is controlled by masculine power and restricted by tradition yet whose determination is limitless. Karnad, as a humanist, makes deliberate attempts to give voice to the voiceless population through his plays. Karnad's literary works, like *Yayati's Devayani*, *Sharmishta* and *Chitrlekha*, *Hayavadana's Kapile* and *Padmini*, *Naga-Rani* and *Kurudavva* in *Nagamandala*, and the *Queen in Bali*, attempt to give voice to those who are excluded from society. Karnad works to combat male supremacy, raising attention about how women are victimized and tormented in the name of weddings. Karnad began working to face his task of resolving divisive matters. Women have frequently been involved in prejudiced politics that support gender and caste perceptions.

Each culture has unique ethical and moral norms, traditions, and cultures to uphold. A group of different people are bound by these norms, codes, and traditions. Indeed, societal and cultural factors play a significant part in determining people's psychology. Each community has its own set of laws and values, as well as traditions and cultures. A society's cultural demands unite its people. They decide people the field of psychology, including their character, attitude, beliefs, superstitions, and way of life. The faith, arts, and literature all

provide suitable representations of society and culture, which have roots in myths, tales, folklore, and theatre. Girish Karnad, a great dramatist, has significantly restored to the roots and recreated for us a rich and lively representation of Indian Society. Major dramatist Girish Karnad looked deeply into the past and reconstructed for us the vibrant and rich picture of Indian society, culture, and its people. He perfectly portrays the Indian way of life in all of his plays, including its traditions, positive and negative facets, and their relative relevance and relationship in the modern world. Society is defined by its culture. Every civilization has an own cultural aesthetic that embodies the personality, experiences, and beliefs of its members. In actuality, myths, legends, and folklore are real-life expressions of this cultural ethos, which stand for the fundamental beliefs and principles of existence, the common experience of the race, and the laws and norms of society. Girish Karnad looked deeply into the past and reconstructed for us the vibrant and rich picture of Indian society, culture, and its people. He has often gone back to his native Indian way of life through his drama and its character.

Hayavadana by Karnad is a cultural symbol drama. Karnad makes extensive use of the plentiful assets of traditional folk theater in this output. In this play the folk forms and elements of supernatural play an important part. Narrative and dramatic style are the main areas of innovation in Naga Mandala. The best stream for post-colonial Indian dramaturgy, which approaches ethnic myths and folktales as dramatic performances, is something Karnad is conscious of. Bali- Yashodhara Charite, an old Kannada epic, is the origin of the sacrifice. Despite being based on a classic epic, the play confronts topics that are just as relevant now as they were centuries ago. The drama presents the conflict between the two traditional ideologies—violence and non-violence—that are connected to two religions, namely Hinduism and Jainism. The Queen and the Queen-Mother are the ideologies' representative perspectives. Considering the royal family is a focus that influences common people who simply imitate the king and his culture, the dramatist picked it to convey his message rather

than a typical one, which enhanced the play's scope. With the aspects of modern life weaved throughout "Yayathi," Girish Karnad challenges us to reconsider the myths, mythologies, and folklores he has so powerfully employed in his plays. He gives a contemporary interpretation on the ancient theme. Girish Karnad encourages us to reconsider the myths, mythologies, and folklores that he has incorporated into his plays in "Yayathi," by incorporating features and aspects of modern life into them. In a contemporary setting, he interprets the ancient theme. Like Yayati, the average person today is enmeshed in the shadow of sensual and material pleasures. He lives in a society where the new spiritual values have not yet been found and the old ones have completely vanished. Readers and critics were both perplexed and educated by Karnad's modern version of the ancient myth concerning the passing of ancient ages between father and son.

### **Conclusion**

Girish Karnad is a highly talented individual. One of the primary explanations for Karnad's outstanding accomplishments as a playwright is his impeccable command of the English language. His writings examine life as it is with a keen awareness of the issues that those who are disadvantaged faces. His style, storytelling strategies, and portrayal of a new dramatist will all be extensively examined, analyzed, and reorganized in the conclusion. And evaluate the characters' realism as well as how social and cultural beliefs have shaped them in his plays

**Conflict of Interest:** The corresponding author, on behalf of second author, confirms that there are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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